

Nayef Hawatmeh seeks coordination

AMMAN (T.T.) — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh Monday stressed the need for Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to foil "partial and unilateral agreements with Israel." In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times following his arrival, Mr. Hawatmeh said coordination with Jordan and the other Arab countries bordering Israel "is essential in protecting Palestinian and Arab rights." He said that the Oslo Agreement and the resulting Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had dealt a severe blow to this coordination. Mr. Hawatmeh, who is based in Damascus, is a frequent visitor to Jordan.

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U.N. car missing at Iraq-Kuwait front

KUWAIT (AP) — United Nations observers said Monday one of the cars they use to patrol the emirate's volatile border with Iraq was missing. A newspaper report said it was stolen by Iraqi troops. If confirmed, the theft would be the latest border incident following a series of shootings and incursions over the past two months that coincided with work on a defensive border trench Kuwait is digging. Abdul Latif Kabbaj, spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), would not give any information on when or how the car disappeared. He also refused to comment on a report in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan that the vehicle was seized by Iraqis in the border area Sunday night after they threatened the two unarmed officers riding in it and made them get out.

GCC to improve security cooperation

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Interior ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Monday discussed a common strategy to improve security cooperation, at a meeting here ahead of the annual GCC summit in Riyadh next month. Security officials said the strategy included standardising arms and other systems used by GCC police and civil defence forces, joint training, cooperation on immigration and airport security, information exchange and joint action to combat drugs and terrorism. The ministers, from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, also discussed a proposal on open borders for their nationals, in line with their stated target of integration. The strategy was mapped out by interior ministry undersecretaries at talks last week.

Kurdish protesters arrested in Paris

PARIS (AFP) — Police arrested 50 Kurdish protesters in central Paris Monday as they gathered for a demonstration to protest a countrywide swoop last Thursday against alleged sympathisers of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). French authorities banned the demonstration on Sunday. Twenty-four of 111 Kurds picked up last Thursday were indicted on Sunday on conspiracy and terrorism charges (See page 2). Three of the 23 were freed and 21 remained in custody, among them the two alleged leaders in France of the separatist PKK, Gultekin Kavak, 27, and Sercan Aydin, 29.

India, South Africa establish full ties

NEW DELHI (AP) — After five decades on the front line of the anti-apartheid movement, India established full diplomatic relations with South Africa on Monday. Foreign Ministers Dinesh Singh and R.F. Botha of South Africa signed documents to open embassies in the two countries and hold regular meetings between officials. "This is a historic moment," Mr. Botha said after signing the two-page agreement. "I look forward to a new era of friendship." With more than one million people of Indian origin in South Africa, India was an early campaigner against the policy of racial discrimination.

Pakistan alleges Indian firing

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Indian troops have sprayed a Kashmir border school with machinegun fire, seriously wounding a teacher and two students, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said Monday. The "unprovoked gunfire from across the line of control dividing the Pakistani and Indian parts of Kashmir occurred Sunday in the Toroti area," APP said. Three machinegun bursts were fired at the government-run middle school in the second such attack on the school this month, the agency said.

King opens 12th Parliament today

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein today opens the 12th Parliament with a traditional speech from the Throne in which he is expected to address the peace process, the economic situation, and the democratisation process in the Kingdom among other issues of local and regional importance.

The two houses of Parliament will then hold separate sessions in which they will choose committees to respond to the King's speech.

The Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which was announced Thursday, will elect its permanent office, which includes deputy and assistant speakers and members of its various committees after senators take the oath.

The Lower House will then go into session after taking the oath under the chairmanship of the oldest deputy to elect a speaker, two deputy speakers and two assistant speakers.

The elected speaker will then chair the meeting of the House and deputies-elect will choose a committee to respond to the King's speech and form other committees in accordance with the internal regulations of the House.

Former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri appears set to win his bid for the speakership of the House after many deputies and at least two of the four parliamentary blocs indicated they would support him.

The 18-member bloc of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) is fielding Tafihel Deputy Abdulla Akaihl but most observers believe Dr. Akaihl will not pose a serious challenge to Mr. Masri.

Observers say the IAF will support Mr. Masri against other candidates at a second

round of balloting if none of the contenders for the speakership win the required absolute majority at the first round and if it becomes certain that Dr. Akaihl is out of the race.

The 22-member Democratic Progressive Coalition (DPC), a bloc formed on Sunday by nationalist, leftist and centrist deputies-elect, is expected to support Mr. Masri and so is the eight-member Jordan National Front (JNF) if it does not field a candidate of its own.

Fawzi Tuameh, spokesman for the National Action Front, has said two of the 18 members of his bloc are interested in running for the speakership.

Observers believe, however, that the bloc will not be able to field a successful candidate because an NAF candidate will not be able to win an absolute majority at a first round of balloting and the IAF is expected to vote against him if he is one of the two contenders at a second round.

The NAF, which was formed last week under the leadership of Karak Deputy-elect Abdul Hadi Al Majali, is expected to give a vote of confidence to a government headed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The IAF strongly opposes that.

The government is constitutionally required to ask the House for a vote of confidence of the electorate is also expected to be raised during the discussion of the draft budget law, which is expected to be presented to the House immediately after the vote of confidence on the government.

Observers and deputies-elect dismissed suggestions that the new House will be easily handled by the government saying the 12th Parliament will "be as lively as its predecessor."

Only the focus of the House will shift, observers say.

sponsored economic adjustment programme. But they expect the new House to press the government hard on "bread and butter" issues which dominated the election campaign.

Observers say the new deputies will require government commitments to deal more effectively with unemployment, poverty, services and other issues pertaining to the direct needs of the electorate before they give the government a vote of confidence.

Such concerns took prominence over major political issues when parliamentary candidates vied for the support of voters during the country's first multi-party elections since 1956.

The IAF and some independent Islamist, leftist and pan-Arabist deputies are expected to withhold confidence from the government because of its policies on the peace process and commitment to the economic adjustment programmes, but most observers say such a bloc will not pose a real challenge to the government.

IAF sources say that at least 30 deputies will join an opposition bloc that rejects the peace process and the economic adjustment programme.

Demands for measures to improve the living standards of the electorate are also expected to be raised during the discussion of the draft budget law, which is expected to be presented to the House immediately after the vote of confidence on the government.

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His Majesty King Hussein is briefed Monday by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad on a new building for the Interior Ministry (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

Foundation stone laid for Interior Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday laid the foundation stone for a new Ministry of Interior complex at Irbid in northwest Amman and listened to a briefing on the project to be carried out by the Ministry of Public Works.

The 5,493-square-metre building will cost JD 1.6 mil-

lion, the King was told. According to the Ministry of Public Works, the building will be ready for occupancy by July 1995.

King Hussein unveiled a commemorative plaque at the site before he laid the foundation stone.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad delivered an

address, noting that the new complex would enable the employees to implement programmes to better carry out their duties.

Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other

officials, including the directors of General Intelligence and Public Security departments.

It was later announced that King Hussein conferred on Mr. Hammad the Jordanian Al Kawab Medal of the First Order in recognition of his efforts and performance of duty.

King Hussein unveiled a commemorative plaque at the site before he laid the foundation stone.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad delivered an

Israel-PLO talks resume in Egypt today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hold autonomy talks in Cairo Tuesday and in the Sinai town of El Arish for the first time Wednesday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman said Monday.

The Cairo track, focussed on security issues under the Sept. 13 autonomy deal, had been scheduled to resume Monday, but was delayed a day to allow Mr. Rabin to brief his delegates, spokesman Gad Ben Ari told AFP.

The discussions in El Arish, Egypt, will cover the transfer of civil authority to the Palestinians who are due to take charge of health, education, direct taxation, tourism and social welfare for the five-year interim period in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The withdrawal will last four months under the Palestinian autonomy deal.

The units will also have the job of preparing new bases to house the troops pulled out of

the Strip.

A plan is being worked out to detail which roads and equipment will be used for the withdrawal, the sources said.

Some of the bases could be handed over to the new Palestinian authorities and others destroyed.

The operation will be launched once agreement is reached on talks in Egypt to implement the autonomy accord.

An Israeli proposal to keep troops on the Gaza Strip after Dec. 13 caused a brief breakdown in the talks but the two sides are now heading for a compromise under which soldiers will guard the 4,000 Jewish settlers who live in Gaza.

The army pulled some soldiers and equipment out of the largest military base in Gaza City, overnight Saturday-Sunday.

People living near the "seafloor" camp saw troops and

U.N. frees 7 more Aideed supporters

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — United Nations forces Monday released from detention seven supporters of warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed, who freed a captured American pilot and a Nigerian soldier last month.

The U.N. still holds 19 Somalis including General Aideed's chief financier Osman Ato and two other of his top aides. The three are being held separately at a secret location.

U.N. officials said some detainees would probably be charged with "militia activity." They did not specify whether they would be tried by a Somali or an international court.

Attached to the order was a letter saying: "As you know, Israel is involved in a process that I hope in the end will lead to peace ... and I hope you also want to take part in this process." The letter was signed by an army major.

Military dailies which published the letter Monday said several reserve soldiers planned to refuse service.

Army officials said the major acted on his own in pluging the peace process. They would not comment on the date of Dec. 29 cited in the letter as the start of the withdrawal operation.

"They asked me if I knew where Aideed was," he said. "They questioned me four or five times."

Abdul Kadir Abdi Hussein, 33, who used to work as a translator for foreign journalists, said he had been held for "almost two months."

"I don't know why," he said. "Now I must look for a job."

U.S. soldiers meanwhile test-fired Howitzers into the Indian Ocean from positions just outside Mogadishu.

Aziz begins talks with U.N. envoys

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq Monday began a round of intensive discussions and lobbying aimed at persuading weapons experts and the U.N. Security Council that the U.N. oil embargo should be lifted.

But the current talks were not expected to lead to swift lifting of the embargo, especially at a time of tension along the Iraq-Kuwait border and reports of an alleged Iraqi poison gas attack on Shiite Muslims in southern marshes.

Lifting the devastating oil embargo is tied specifically to Iraq's fulfillment of certain weapons-related conditions, but the United States and some other council members first want compliance with all ceasefire terms.

Tareq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and best known envoy, met Security Council President Jose Luis Jesus to press for lifting the embargo. He later met Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and other U.N. officials.

He made no comment to reporters on the sessions.

In the afternoon Mr. Aziz was to meet privately at the residence of Iraq's U.N. ambassador with council and other diplomats. He was expected to meet there in the

evening with Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission charged with monitoring Iraq's military industries.

The commission also is investigating reports no the use of poison gas in the south. But U.N. officials said Monday that there was no official report yet on the findings.

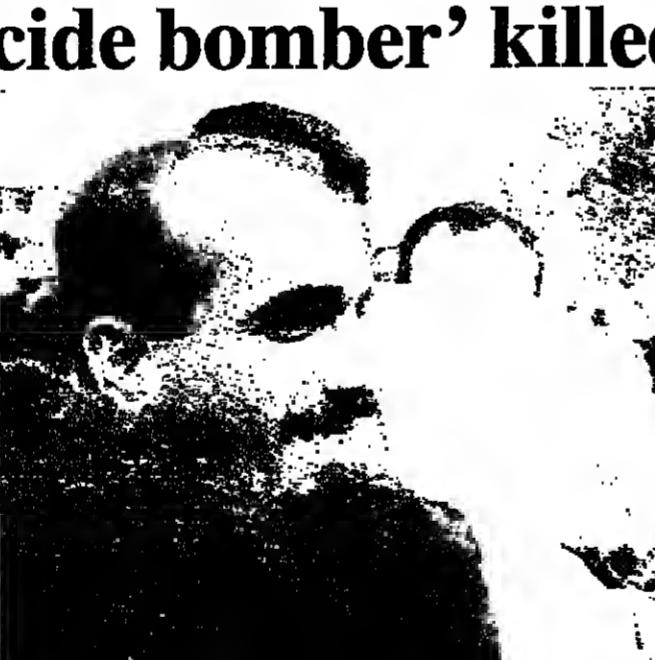
Later Monday Mr. Jesus, who is the ambassador of Cape Verde, was to brief the Security Council members behind closed doors on the morning session with Mr. Aziz.

The U.N. trade embargo, which includes an oil embargo, has caused great hardship in the vast majority of the Iraqi people and Iraq urgently seeks relief. Some council members, such as Morocco and Pakistan, also favour easing sanctions on humanitarian grounds and argue that Iraq has made progress in meeting ceasefire terms.

The security council imposed a total trade embargo, including an oil embargo, upon Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. It regularly has reviewed sanctions and decided to maintain them.

After the Gulf war the council continued sanctions to en-

(Continued on page 3)



An unidentified Fatah Hawk member gets a hug from a relative as he is released after giving himself up to the Israeli army Sunday (AFP photo)

see troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, withdrawal is to begin Dec. 13 and to be completed by April 13.

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(Continued on page 10)

Lebanon marks Independence Day with hope for better times

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon celebrated its 50th independence anniversary Monday with a military parade in Beirut and festive marches in an Israeli-occupied border enclave.

Shortly before the ceremonies began, Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hezbollah attacked Israeli troops in Israel's self-styled "security zone" with mortar fire:

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were no casualties in the attack on Talaoush, where an Israeli-armoured platoon is stationed at the zone's central edge.

The hostilities underlined the shakiness of Lebanon's independence with troops from foreign armies still stationed on its territory after two civil wars and two Israeli invasions.

President Elias Hrawi took the review stand flanked by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nahib Beni as well as senior government officials and Arab and western diplomats.

Army commander General Emile Lahoud, dressed in a navy admiral's uniform, watched from another podium across the street as the parade unfolded.

White pigeons were released and a 21-gun salute boomed, signalling the start of the 80-minute parade at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT).

Three 1950s-vintage Hawker-Hunter jet fighters that make up Lebanon's combat air force thundered at low level over skeletal, shell-pocked buildings overlooking the mid-

city museum crossing where the celebration was held.

The crossing was a no-man's land throughout the 1975-1990 civil war, dividing Beirut's western and eastern sectors. Thousands of people were killed by sniper fire or shelling on the crossing from militias.

The parade was held under tight security. All approaches to the scene were sealed off by troops and police. People watched from balconies from a distance, or on television.

"This is the real hope for us, I mean for the people," said Samira Yazbeck, a 26-year-old Maronite Catholic schoolteacher as she pointed to the parading troops. "Without them, peace and reconstruction cannot be safeguarded."

For Ahmad Natour, a Shiite Muslim vegetable vendor, "the army is the people's defender against the morons from all faiths who have destroyed our country."

In the Israeli-occupied strip in South Lebanon, students marched in the streets of Hasbayya, Bint Jbeil and Marjayoun, provincial capital of the zone, waving Lebanese flags and shouting independence slogans.

Committed to peace

President Hrawi said on the eve of the independence anniversary his government was committed to achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East but would not make any territorial concessions.

"We will not be a stumbling stone in the face of peace, but we will not make any concessions over our right to our land and sovereignty," Mr. Hrawi said in a televised message on Sunday.

Taking part for the first time were jeeps mounted with armour-piercing guns that were part of a U.S. consignment of military aid extended three months ago.

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Lebanese soldiers parade on the former green line for the 50th anniversary of independence from France Monday amid calls on the government to rid the country of foreign troops (AFP photo)

U.S. worried over Yemeni unity

SANA (Agencies) — The United States, worried about Yemen's unity, has repeated calls for a peaceful end to the worst political crisis in the country's 2½ years as a single state.

The failure of unity and democracy in Yemen will have negative effects on the region and the Yemeni people in particular. "Yemen's official SABA news agency quoted U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes as telling President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

It was the second time in 10 days that the United States has urged a peaceful resolution of the political conflict between Mr. Saleh and his estranged vice-president, southerner Ali Al Beedh.

One diplomat said: "The U.S. message is certain to have a considerable weight on all parties. This is the most unequivocal expression of Washington's concern over unity and it is not likely to go unheeded."

Margaret Dean, director of the U.S. State Department's Arabian Peninsula office, visited Yemen last week and discussed the crisis.

Diplomatic sources said the U.S. was worried that instability in Yemen could spill over to neighbouring countries in the Arabian Peninsula and possibly the horn of Africa.

Political sources said a dialogue between the feuding parties of Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh — who led North and South Yemen respectively before union in 1990 — was expected to begin in Sanaa on Monday and could mark the start of a thaw.

The sources said U.S. diplomats have been in touch with Mr. Beedh and Mr. Hughes was likely to visit Aden, the stronghold of Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

Mr. Beedh retired to Aden three months ago over differences with Mr. Saleh and his General People's Congress (GPC) on political and economic reforms.

On Saturday Mr. Saleh met members of Yemen's opposition parties who were trying to set up a meeting between him and Mr. Beedh.

Abdul Rahman Al Jeffry, leader of the Yemen League Party, said the three parties in Yemen's ruling coalition were close to agreement on a meeting on Monday.

The three parties are the GPC, YSP and Islah, which emerged after last April's elections.

Mr. Jeffry told Reuters he had talks on Sunday with Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, a YSP member, and said: "The YSP was agreed in principle to attend."

It was not clear if Mr. Beedh, who has not met Mr. Saleh for three months, was to lead the YSP delegation to the meeting. Mr. Jeffry said Mr. Saleh told opposition leaders he was ready to attend the meeting regardless of who headed the YSP team.

Deputy Premier Mujaahid Abu Shawarbi and Sheikani Sanan Abu Luhum, a former adviser to Mr. Saleh, were to attend. Both were involved in intensive mediation efforts between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh over the past few weeks, political sources said.

For some months now, along with a number of other colleagues, I have been trying to call attention to the disaster taking place in southern Sudan," said New York Republican Benjamin Gilman.

"By its abuse, its acts of violence, its efforts to create a famine in the south, the Khartoum government has made itself a pariah," he said.

The bill, while not binding,

expresses growing congressional concern about the 10-year civil war in Sudan, which has killed up to half a million people.

Lawmakers said war-induced famine in southern Sudan is threatening the lives of four million people.

Southern rebels — black Africans and mainly Christians or animists — started off fighting for a united secular Sudan against what they saw as discrimination by the Arab and Muslim north. But in the last two years, they have moved towards demanding independence.

Florida Democrat Alcee Hastings said: "The question in the final analysis is not just the starving in southern Sudan. The question is how long will we permit Khartoum to be a terrorist breeding ground."

The measure urges the Sudanese government and the rebel group to cooperate with relief groups.

It also calls on President Clinton to appoint a special peace representative for Sudan, increase humanitarian aid through nongovernmental groups and oppose all loans to Sudan from international lending institutions.

The United States contributed more than \$130 million in humanitarian aid to Sudan in 1992 and 1993.

U.S. House condemns Khartoum government

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning the long-standing Arab League boycott of Israel and calling it an impediment to Middle East peace. The non-binding resolution, passed 421-1, urges the Arab League and the United States to work to end both the direct boycott against Israel and a related boycott against firms with commercial ties to that nation. "It (boycott) is an unnecessary obstacle to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It stands as a threat to the increased spirit of cooperation and tolerance emerging in the region," said Indiana Democrat Lee Hamilton. Since 1948, when Israel was founded, most countries in the Arab League have maintained an economic and diplomatic boycott of Israel. The boycott was expanded during the 1950s to include many companies that have commercial ties with Israel, including some U.S. firms.

Lawmakers have said some Arab states are moving in the direction of ending the boycott of firms with commercial ties to Israel, fuelled by the recent accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

8 Fateh men free after surrendering

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Eight members of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction surrendered to Israeli authorities Sunday in the occupied Gaza Strip and were promptly released, Palestinian sources said. The army said "a number" had surrendered and been released. Palestinians said the eight had been on Israel's wanted list but that since the September self-rule deal they had been informed by the army that if they surrendered and vowed not to attack Israelis their names would be cleared. The eight, members of the militant Fateh Hawks, signed the undertaking at Israeli headquarters in Gaza City and were promptly freed to throngs of well-wishers who carried pictures of the released men and flashed V-for-victory signs. Palestinians said the surrenders on Sunday brought to 19 the number of Fateh militants who have taken Israel's amnesty offer. Among the eight was Anwar Ekdain, 25, commander of the Hawks in Khan Younis in the Strip, they added.

Father of Kuwaiti son in Iraqi jail

KUWAIT (AP) — The father of a Kuwaiti who has been missing for months said he received a letter from his son telling him he was imprisoned in Iraq for illegal entry, the newspaper Al Anha reported Monday. The daily published a copy of the letter Mohammad Al Rasheed received from his son Falah and showed to the Interior Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The letter, with a passport photo of Falah, said he was sentenced to eight years in prison for crossing the border and was doing the time at Abu Ghraib prison. It was not clear how the letter reached the father or how Falah crossed the disputed desert border. ICRC officials could not be reached for comment. A number of foreigners and Kuwaitis have been arrested by Iraq for illegal entry since the end of the Gulf war that liberated the emirate from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

Egypt rejects U.N. torture allegations

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has rejected U.N. allegations that "torture" was carried out on a routine basis in Egyptian prisons. "The Egyptian regime respects human rights and rejects the use of torture," against its political opponents, an Interior Ministry spokesman told a press conference. General Rauf Al Minawi admitted, however, that "excesses" sometimes occurred but he said "tough measures" were taken against those responsible. He said that in 1992, eight police men were brought before the courts accused of involvement in torture while 20 others had been sanctioned. "There is no torture in Egyptian prisons," the spokesman said, adding that "some political prisoners inflict injuries on themselves before appearing in court so they can pretend they were tortured." On Nov. 10, the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation presented a report to the United Nations committee against torture in Geneva claiming that torture was widespread and used in a "systematic and routine fashion" on prison inmates. The report said detainees were tortured to extract confessions and sometimes as punishment, or even as a favour to influential people.

Khamenei urges world to punch U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Sunday urged the nations of the world to "give the United States a punch on the mouth" to stop it interfering in their affairs. The official IRNA news agency quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying Iran was powerful enough by itself to prevent the United States from intervening, adding it would "not allow any power to use it as a tool." The United States broke off relations with Iran after its 1979 Islamic revolution, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "Today governments, nations and administrative bodies should openly and powerfully give the U.S. a punch on the mouth, and prevent it from its shameless interference in their internal affairs," Ayatollah Khamenei told a meeting of Basij militia commanders.

Schwarzkopf keeps rein on Gulf legacy

NEW YORK (R) — General Norman Schwarzkopf, allied commander in the Gulf war, has blocked access by army historians to a cache of key wartime documents that provided the basis for his own \$5 million memoirs, *Newswalk* said. In its latest edition on sale Monday, the magazine says Gen. Schwarzkopf, now retired, ejected an official historian from his headquarters at the very start of the Gulf crisis, in August 1990. *Newswalk* said Gen. Schwarzkopf denied the allegations. Citing army sources, *Newswalk* also said the general hoarded a minute-by-minute campaign log, battle graphics and telephone records, taking the documents with him into retirement and refusing to share them with researchers. And, the report said, Gen. Schwarzkopf has further miffed his former comrades in arms by refusing to address army audiences while collecting as much as \$60,000 per speech on the lecture circuit. *Newswalk* said Gen. Schwarzkopf denied barring historians from his Gulf war headquarters or taking official documents, adding it was not "good form" to address army officers just yet.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL 667171

Kurds under probe in France

PARIS (Agencies) — Twenty-four Kurdish militants have been placed under investigation for possible involvement in a terrorist conspiracy, judicial sources said Monday.

The 24 are suspected supporters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which is fighting for independence from Turkey, the sources said.

Twenty-one of them were remanded in custody late on Sunday night, including two suspected leaders of the PKK, Gulekin Kavak, 27, and Serdar Aydin, 29.

Investigators said those placed under investigation ran extortion rackets, levying "revolutionary taxes" on Kurdish and Turkish businesses in France to fund the military wing of the PKK.

They were rounded up on Thursday in a nationwide operation aimed at preventing attacks on Turkish targets later this month, officials said. Police also rounded up another 77 people in the same swoop but they have since been released.

Under French law, a judicial investigation must be opened before charges can be brought against a suspect.

Daniel Jacoby, president of the International Federation of Leagues for Human Rights, said: "The aim is to please the Turkish government which does not respect human rights.

"The charges are extremely fragile and the case is fabricated artificially," he said.

Commenting on the round-up and a similar operation

there was "a deep wound within Fateh."

Meanwhile, Col. Maqdah called on Mr. Arafat to resign from the PLO leadership and announced the creation of the "Black September 13" Brigades — named after the date the PLO-Israeli accord was signed.

Col. Maqdah said the organization consisted of Fateh military officers who "refused to abandon the armed struggle."

"Black September 13" later said it carried out the murder of a Jewish settler in the occupied territories, denounced by Mr. Arafat.

It also claimed responsibility for recent Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel, launched from Lebanon.

Of 20 Fateh offices in the Ain Al Hilweh camp, 17 are held by Col. Maqdah and only three by Mr. Arafat's followers.

In an interview with AFP, Mr. Kurayem acknowledged

right of the 1948 refugees to return. At the same time Lebanon refuses to allow them to settle.

The sense of neglect is further aggravated by the fact that six months ago Mr. Arafat stopped sending money to the camp because of the PLO's financial crisis, the Palestinian officials said.

However, pro-Syrian Palestinian organisations failed to take advantage of the situation to increase their influence.

They managed to assemble

no more than a few hundred people in the camp to demonstrate against the autonomy deal.

According to one long-standing resident of Ain Al Hilweh, 68-year-old Ahmad Yassin, all the groups outside Fateh lost credibility by being "vassals to Arab regimes."

He said that despite the wounds Mr. Arafat was "still the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty."

The PLO-Israeli deal makes no reference to the

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:10 ... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:35 ... Damacus (RJ)

07:45 ... Dhahran (RJ)

11:15 ... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:15 ... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

12:45 ... Paris, Brussels (RJ)

12:45 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

12:45 ... London (RJ)

16:20 ... Larnaca (RJ)

16:35 ... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:55 ... Frankfurt (RJ)

17:30 ... Cairo (RJ)

ZARQ ... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

ZARQ Govt. Hospital ... (09) 983232

ZARQ National Hospital ... (09) 900560

Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09) 986732

Ibn Hikma Modern Hospital ... (09) 990990

IRBD: Princess Basma Hospital ... (02) 775555

Greek Catholic Hospital ... (02) 772275

Trade minister calls for manufacturing spare parts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Monday opened a two-day meeting on spare parts manufacturing by stressing Jordan's need to enhance the industrial sector to attain comprehensive economic development. "We need to manufacture our own spare parts for our own machinery, not only because this would save us a great deal of foreign currency, but also the manufacturing business contributes to the attainment of development targets," said the minister in an opening speech.

Spare parts can ensure the long life of industrial machinery and can cut production costs, making Jordanian commodities very competitive in the local market and abroad, added the minister.

Noting that Jordan is witnessing a growing industrial sector, the minister said that in-

dstry has been contributing towards reducing the rate of unemployment and boosting Jordan's foreign trade.

Dr. Saket thanked the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) for its endeavours in the manufacture of spare parts and the Jordanian Armed Forces for its contributions in this field.

Organised by the JEA at the Professional Association Complex, the meeting is attended by engineers in the public and private sector who will review working papers dealing with industrial computers and materials used in the manufacture of spare parts, coordination between the industrial sector and Jordanian universities and linking university programmes with industry.

Following the opening session, the minister inaugurated an exhibition of spare parts manufactured locally by several Jordanian industrial firms.

Brass quintet to tune up from classical to swing

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a concert presented by National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the British Council in Amman and the Forte Grand Hotel, the Cambrian Brass Quintet will perform at the Forte Grand tonight (Tuesday) and participate in student workshops.

Founded in 1981 and based in Birmingham, England, the ensemble offers an exceptionally wide range of works.

Though in the classical mainstream, they have also put together excellent arrangements of jazz, swing and even popular music.

Richard Adams and Andrew Stone-Fewings on trumpets, John Cavell on horn, Kevin Pitt on trombone and Melvyn Poore on tuba have toured in France, Germany, Austria,

Spain, Canada and Finland. They have also appeared on several international television programmes.

One of their trademarks is the important numbers of original works they have commissioned. New compositions by Thea Musgrave and Stephen Simpson have been performed by the Cambrian Brass Quintet at "premiere" concerts.

Their high technical expertise does not prevent the group from having a relaxed style that makes listening to them a real pleasure.

They believe that above all, music must be entertaining.

Writes the Birmingham Evening Mail: "The Cambrian cope with equal facility a repertoire ranging from Gabrieli to the Beatles."

During their stay in Jordan, the quintet will also participate in workshops with music students.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of pottery by Hazia Al Za'bi at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al-Yadi) — Jabal Amman, Second Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00).
- * Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Student Affairs Deanship at the University of Jordan.
- Graphic exhibition by Syrian artist Sa'd Hajjo at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Iranian trade exhibit (includes industrial and agricultural machinery, construction materials, vehicles, foodstuff, cosmetics, and carpets) at the Exhibition Hall on the University Road (10:00-13:00 and 15:00-20:00).
- Art exhibition by plastic artist Hanan Al Dasouqi at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan.
- Art exhibition by plastic artist Anwar Haddadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition entitled "Mirage" by artist Alaa' Al Shanti at Ah'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.
- Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition by artist Hammoud Shantout at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdoub at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 8269532).
- Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.
- Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

DRAMAS

- * Drama in Arabic entitled "The Trip of Luck" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- * Drama in Arabic entitled "Al Taratir" at Samir Al Rita'i Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Film in French entitled "A Sunday in the Country" at Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

CONCERT

- * Concert by Cambrian Brass Quintet at the Forte Grand Hotel at 7:30 p.m.

SEMINARS

- * Seminar in Arabic on production and marketing of children's drama at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Aziz begins talks at U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

are Iraq's compliance with ceasefire terms. But the ceasefire resolution refers to permitting Iraq to resume exports — intended to mean oil. It says that Iraq must meet several key weapon-related conditions, including destruction of certain weapons and acceptance of long-term monitoring.

The special commission which monitors Iraq's military industries would certify the lifting of the embargo, once the

Majali says peace talks should not affect economic projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday said that ongoing negotiations for a just and honourable peace should in no way affect Jordanian projects and programmes.

Such peace, when it has materialised, would yield additional fruits according to the prime minister, who added that "peace alone can by no means determine our economic march."

Referring to the present Jordanian economic situation, Dr. Majali said that the country has overcome the worst circumstances and has transcended the difficulties that emerged in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Speaking at a meeting in his office of the Economic Consultative Council, the prime minister said that the political situation in the region had created a wait and see atmosphere.

This situation, he added, could have been responsible for the recent slowdown in the economic sector which was manifested in a retreat in the number of new firms being registered in Jordan, less de-

mand for real estate and a draw back in the volume of operations at the Amman Financial Market.

This year saw a 5.5 per cent economic growth in the Kingdom, while prices only rose at the rate of 4.5 per cent, said Dr. Majali, adding that this meant a higher per capita income, reaching this year \$1,500 compared to \$1,000 in 1980, despite difficult economic circumstances resulting from the retreat in economic dealings with several Arab states, and a decline in demand for Jordanian phosphate and fertilisers.

Referring to some remaining major difficulties, the prime minister said that these include the foreign debt, the ongoing harassment of Aqaba-bound ships, the decline in foreign aid and the increasing population growth rates.

Dr. Majali said the government was putting the finishing touches on the 1994 fiscal budget, adding that a provision was made for separate budgets for each governorate. This procedure, he said, was in conformity with the government's

new policies of granting provincial governors more authority and enhancing the process of decentralisation.

Dr. Majali said he hoped that the new budget would help the country overcome poverty and unemployment and spur more production and a fairer distribution of services.

The prime minister told the meeting that a proposal by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association that the government re-examine the Customs Law was being considered.

This government is determined to direct the national economy towards more construction and open the door for the public to help deal economic problems, said the prime minister.

He stressed that this government will cooperate closely with the Parliament and with the Economic Consultative Council to attain sustainable development and raise the standard of living of the Jordanian citizens.

Present at the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan.

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Prime



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday presides over a meeting of the Economic Con-

sultative Council attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan (Petra photo)

Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani said the meeting discussed the Customs Law which, be said, was in need of amendments since its enforcement in 1983. He said suggestions and

recommendations by the council would be submitted to Parliament for approval.

JMA asks psychiatrist to cancel 'successful' T.V. programme

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian psychiatrist who has been hosting a successful television programme on manners of conduct in Jordanian society was asked by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) to stop recording further series. Walid Sarhan Saturday and Sunday placed an advertisement in the Arabic dailies apologising for what he said was obligatory interruption of recording further series of his programme entitled "Modes of Conduct."

He explained that it was upon the request of the Jordanian Medical Association that the series would be cancelled. JMA President Ishaq Maraqqa said that the association adopted this measure following a demand by the Psychiatrist Society. Dr. Maraqqa said that the society claimed that it alone has the right to choose a specialist to conduct these kinds of pro-

grammes and that Dr. Sarhan should not board the series for himself.

The fact that there is only one doctor presenting such a series means that he is influencing people to listen only to him (to one particular psychiatrist)," Dr. Maraqqa said. "There is no reason why one person should take the whole lot of medical publicity to himself only."

Dr. Maraqqa said that Dr. Sarhan's programme contained, in many instances, several flaws that might have a negative impact on the viewer. He said that in one of the episodes discussing ways of reducing anxiety, for example, the viewer would conclude at the end that tranquilizers are like candies. This "did not appeal to me professionally," said Dr. Maraqqa, emphasising that there were other examples in some series that were criticised fellow by psychiatrists as unprofessional or not serving the public interest.

Dr. Sarhan, who is temporarily out of the country, has been preparing and presenting "Modes of Conduct" for over a year. The programme, said employees at Jordan Television, is highly appreciated and lauded by the public.

"We have been surprised to learn about the restriction on Dr. Sarhan to record new series," an official at the programme section told the Jordan Times.

"From all sectors and by all categories of people, the series was praised and there was high demand from the public to re-run old episodes."

The official pointed out that it was Dr. Sarhan's initiative to prepare such a programme and be volunteered to run the first 13 episodes free of charge. "I don't understand why they (JMA) would take such a step against him. He doesn't need publicity, his clinic has always been full of patients."

IDB grants JD 8.5m in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank granted 38 loans worth JD 8,593,000 from July through October, to finance various industrial and touristic projects.

Of the 38 loans, ten were granted to finance new projects, costing JD 3 million. The loans are set to provide 549 new job opportunities.

Human Appeal International starts mobile clinic services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Appeal International, a voluntary and charitable organisation, announced Monday that its mobile health clinic began operating in the remote and less developed regions of Jordan.

Free medical services were offered to people in Salia, a town in the Dhuhur district, organised by the Hashemite Association for International Economic Cooperation.

As the session ended, Mohammad Bani Hani, director of the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) announced that the two sides will Tuesday sign minutes of their deliberations.

Dr. Bani Hani said that the minutes will cover areas for future trade and economic cooperation.

panying the clinic.

According to Mr. Sarhan, the mobile clinic currently will make visits to the remote regions every two weeks. At the start of 1994, it would be making weekly trips to these areas to provide medical care to inhabitants.

In the years ahead, Human Appeal International, which is headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will establish stationary clinics to benefit the poor, particularly people of the rural and remote areas of the Kingdom, said Mr. Sarhan.

He said that laboratory tests are conducted in the clinic and prescription drugs are dispensed free of charge to patients.

The clinic, he added, meets the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Established in Amman in 1990, the organisation's office has been extending help to needy families by distributing food and clothes and establishing tricot and sewing centres for women. The organisation, he said, has set up a bakery to produce the Arab sheet bread known as "shrik" in the Bani Kananeh district.



NEW RECRUITS: Royal Jordanian (RJ) Vice-President for Marketing and Services Akel Bitajti Monday awards diplomas to new RJ flight attendants who recently completed a seven-week training programme. Their training

included air safety procedures, first-aid, food and beverage service and pertinent information about the airline industry. With the newly graduated group RJ this year has recruited 81 cabin attendants

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince receives Youth Minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday received Youth Minister Abdullah Owaidat, who briefed him on the work of the National Sports Development Committee and activities over the past two years by various sports committees. Prince Hassan lauded the efforts made by these committees and said he hoped that a final conference on the committee's work will be held as previously scheduled.

expanding scopes of cooperation in different fields.

Chilean trade official to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of international economic relations at the Chilean foreign ministry Thursday arrives here at the head of a Chilean delegation on a four-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with government officials and representatives of the trade and industrial sectors on enhancing scopes of bilateral cooperation.

Agreement signed on Amman-Warsaw flights

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Poland Monday signed an air transport agreement under which Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Polish Airways will fly regular flights between Amman and Warsaw. Signing the agreement for Jordan was Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority Ahmad Jweibert, and for Poland, Polish Charge d'Affaires in Amman Edmund Pawlak.

Majali congratulates Canadian premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday sent a cable to newly-elected Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, congratulating him on his election. Dr. Majali praised bilateral relations between Jordan and Canada and stressed Jordan's interest in further enhancing such relations and as development.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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Peace dividends for all

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Sunday were not only aimed at allaying Syrian anxieties over persistent reports about an imminent unilateral peace pact with Israel but also to help end Syrian isolation by key players in the region. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government has been on record as wanting to delay action on the Syrian-Israeli track until peace treaties on other Arab fronts are finalised on the pretext that the Israeli public cannot digest several breakthroughs in a short time. Jordan, on the other hand, is on record as being faithfully committed to the attainment of a comprehensive peace that includes all parties to the Middle East peace process. There can be no doubt that Jordan will honour this pledge. The Jordanian perspective is dictated by strategic considerations. Syria is central to the peace process and any attempt to bypass or ignore it will not be in the interest of Jordan or the Arab Nation.

This means that Washington and the other key players in the peace process must cultivate a favourable climate for an eventual Israeli-Syrian agreement. Just as Rabin came back from his visit to the U.S. with meaningful and effective offers of aid and support, including the building up of his country's air power with the latest U.S. war planes, Syria feels that it deserves to reap the benefits of peace. Foremost, Syria must not be made to feel that it is being targeted by the other major powers in the region or the West. Continued reference to it as a sponsor of terrorism would only exacerbate any ill-feeling that the Syrian leadership may have. Damascus needs to be integrated into the peace process.

Other countries can lend support to the Jordanian effort by developing a more positive perspective about the Syrian place in the peace process. Continued alienation of Syria by all sorts of accusations or innuendoes can only delay progress on the other tracks. The U.S. and other Western countries' sanctions against Syria should be lifted as a signal of a new policy towards it.

The World Bank can also be more supportive by including Syria in the aid packages already committed to other parties to the peace process. Only by showing the Syrians that investment in peace would be worthwhile, will there be real hope to move Syria into full engagement in the process on the basis of full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel should be more forthcoming on this score just as Damascus can be more aggressive in its pursuit of peace with Tel Aviv.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday commented on His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with President Hafez Al Assad in Syria, noting that coordination between Arab parties involved in the peace process with Israel was of paramount importance. King Hussein's talks with the Syrian president represented part of Jordan's continued drive to ensure a consolidated and united Arab stand vis-a-vis the crucial and dangerous stage the Arabs are facing, said the paper. Noting that the Arab World lacks genuine coordination, the paper said that the two leaders' meeting is another attempt to address the political, economic and military imbalances. The paper said that Israel had already breached the Arab ranks and continues to seek separate deals with the Arab countries to cause disarray in the Arab Nation's ranks. Damascus and Amman have now met and decided that only a comprehensive and lasting peace would be acceptable, on all fronts, to safeguard national interests, continued the daily. It said that with the breach of the Arab ranks and by dealing with the Arab countries unilaterally, the Israelis hope to ensure their domination of the Arab World politically, economically and militarily. The paper said that Jordan has no interest in a separate deal with Israel because such a deal can ensure no lasting settlement for the Middle East conflict.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily suggested that the government should not include any of the new Parliament members Tareq Masarweh said the present Parliament is not a parliament of political parties and the coalitions being formed among the deputies have not matured yet. The writer said that except for three deputies who said they represent political parties, the majority of the deputies are independent, and should be given sufficient time to form their coalitions and arrange for preliminary arrangements for their future task. Had there emerged strong political parties among the deputies, there could be justification for the involvement of these parties in a new government, either in a coalition or individually, added the writer. The writer cited former deputy Fares Nabulsi as suggesting the idea of non-involvement of deputies in a government so that the Parliament can continue to serve as a watchdog on the executive branch. He said perhaps this is the best time to put this idea into practice.

The View from Fourth Circle

Toujan Feisal — a triumphant new tribalism

The phenomenon of Toujan Feisal's parliamentary victory is enormously important, and is rightly being celebrated by many in the country; but, with the focus squarely on the triumph of the first Jordanian woman in the elected Lower House, I think her victory is being hailed for the wrong reason.

I am convinced that her victory is one of those rare events that quietly mark a turning point in the political and social history of our region. Toujan Feisal represents the birth of a new brand of Arab/Islamic activism and political leadership that will gradually have a great impact on our political culture and even on our national identity in years and decades to come.

In our formal Jordanian political structure that is dominated by anti-ideological tribal-centrists, right-of-centre narrow-nationalists, and emotion-laden Islamists, Toujan Feisal represents the birth of an Arab/Islamic political counter-culture that rejects and challenges the most fundamental bases of our existing power structure. I would like to offer the following points about why Toujan Feisal may herald an important phenomenon for the future of this region.

1. The first sobering point to keep in mind is that hers was not a massive victory. She squeaked in with 1,885 votes — not exactly a landslide victory, not even a strong mandate, but an important win nevertheless because of the nature of her ideas and her personal character.

2. The fact that she is a woman is incidental, and probably irrelevant in political terms. It is a sign of the cultural rigidity and intellectual weakness of our Jordanian and Arab mass media that most of the publicity she gets focuses on her gender, rather than on her ideas. The international media are not much better.

The reality is that in her campaign she emphatically rejected a single-focus candidacy based on her sex, religion or ethnicity. She did not campaign as a woman or a Muslim or a Circassian; she ran as a Jordanian and an Arab who recognised political and legal faults in society and who also recognised the inner moral and cultural strengths that this society could draw on to redress those wrongs.

3. She attracted voters, including myself, because of three key reasons: her personal strength of character, the soundness of her ideas and arguments and her ability to touch an emotional chord among the people that was essentially a cry for dignity and decency in how we run our country and how we manifest our profound Arab/Islamic heritage.

Her strength of character is impressive for two reasons: a) the quiet confidence and immense dignity with which she challenges established norms and laws, without fearing the criticisms and ridiculous rumours hurled against her, and b) her fortitude in standing up to and ultimately defeating the attempts by Islamists and others four years ago to destroy her through a campaign of moral vilification and character assassination. Her strength of character is a key element in her attractiveness in this culture at this time; this is a human being who did not submit meekly to the strong forces against her and who fought back and won against great odds. The fact that she attracts men as well as women voters is an important sign of how cultural traditions can be overridden by the power of

political ideas and personal character.

The soundness of her ideas is the main basis for her success to date. Her campaign talks were impressive because of their substance, in contrast with most other candidates who stressed sleep-inducing platitudes, worn-out clichés and old, emotion-laden slogans. She always gave specific examples of problems, mentioned particular flaws in laws or administrative practices and suggested practical means of improving the quality of life of the Jordanian people. In other words, she respected the intelligence of the people and tried to attract them through rational ideas and analysis. Few others have gone this route in recent years.

Her character and her ideas combined to produce her third important attribute, which is her charismatic leadership quality. She struck a chord that runs through most Arabs these days — the desire to overcome the failures and the problems that we have endured for many decades; the desire to transform our societies into more productive, humane and responsive communities that respect human beings simply because of their basic rights as human beings, rather than for their commercial potential or their blind political allegiance based on fear. She offered a vision of how to get from yesterday's humiliations and today's constraints to tomorrow's promise; those who voted for her trusted her capacity to work hard to make that vision come true.

4. These assets allowed her to appeal to a fascinating and unusual cross-section of Jordanian voters, and essentially to shatter the powerful parameters of tribalism, religion, ethnicity and gender that have defined Arab political culture and public life for centuries. Her public meetings were an extraordinarily refreshing sight — men and women, old and young, all income and education brackets, all religions and ethnic groups, and — perhaps most important as an indicator of future trends — many young, single men and women who came to bear this intriguing new brand of Arab voice.

5. All of these facts are tempered, however, by the relatively small number of votes she received compared to the whole electoral pie, and by the fact that the third district of Amman is more likely to respond to her unique appeal than voters in other, more traditional parts of the country. It remains to be seen if her victory is a historic sign of change to come in our country and the entire region, based on her example of personal character, strength of ideas, and personal charisma. I think it is, but we will need the rest of this decade to find out.

6. Her personal and political attributes represent nothing less than a new model of national political leadership in a region that has known only three other models during the last, oh, ten-thousand years or so: a) tribal patriarchs who governed on the strength of their cultural authenticity and their ability to help most people live an adequate life, b) commercial despots who ruled by military force and by buying the superficial allegiance of their people, and c) leaders who blended aspects of (a) and (b) but who also generated mass emotional, often hysterical responses from their people who had been degraded by colonialism, Zionism, or domestic corruption and incompetence.

Toujan Feisal is a glimpse of a new brand of political

leadership that defies and transcends these models of the past, and that tries to respond to the realities of today's world. Her importance is as a prototype of authentic, legitimate and credible political leadership that generates grassroots support on the basis of an issues-oriented ideological appeal that cuts across tribal, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, and gender lines. She is a sign of our future: indigenous political forces that reflect the emergence of structures of western-like civil society that also respect our Arab/Islamic cultural identity.

Ironically, in fact, she has cracked the stranglehold of traditional tribal/paternalistic politics in Jordan by starting her own tribe — a new kind of tribe that brings together people on the basis of values and ideas, rather than on the basis of lineage, sect, or geography.

Her historic feat, however, is not yet achieved, because it is not simply to have won a seat for a woman MP; rather, her test will be whether she can build upon her personal success and develop a genuine national (and then regional) political movement. Her particular and immediate challenge in the next four years is to develop extra-parliamentary bases of political support that can mobilise large numbers of constituents. As a lone voice in Parliament, she can be novel and gratifying, but not necessarily very effective unless she joins forces with a larger voting bloc and translates her personal success into a political movement.

I believe she can succeed if she maintains her principles and develops a pragmatic political strategy that can strengthen those nationwide political and social forces that she has already tapped in her district. She will have to resist the temptation of being bought out and co-opted by the powerful forces of political commercialisation that ruined many of the other fresh parliamentary faces that won in 1989 but were unceremoniously thrown out in 1993. She will also have to resist the temptations of personal aggrandizement and the lure of the television lights.

Toujan Feisal faced formidable enemies who tried to destroy her a few years ago, and now she will face even stronger attempts to isolate her or to marginalise her as a sociologically interesting but politically freak advocate of women, children and babies. She will have to show that her strength is due to the fact that she speaks out for the rights of all Jordanians. Like she did in the last four years, in the next four years she will have to show her most extreme opponents to be politically antiquated and sociologically marginal.

She will have to muster great new sources of strength and support to win the battle for a better Arab future — a battle that is now moving into public forums such as Parliament and the press. Toujan Feisal finds herself once again on the front lines of the struggle for honesty and decency in public life and for dignity and security in the private lives of our citizens. Her victory is a historically important sign of refreshing new Arab breezes that already blow all around us. Let us hope — and work — so that these breezes will gain strength and develop into a powerful wind that reinvigorates our battered but grand old culture.

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Racist attacks grow, Britain debates kind of society it wants

By Sue Leeman
The Associated Press

LONDON — The government is trying to stop them at the ports, and racists terrorise those already here. Increasingly, Britain's message to the people of its former colonies is "keep out."

All the while, a debate seethes about what kind of society Britons want — an ethnically diverse and multicultural mix, a cozy "little England" of shopkeepers and cricket lovers or the all-white dream of the ultraright.

Alarm about immigration comes not only from the racist British National Party, which won its first election Sept. 16 in a local council race in east London, but from the establishment and electorate.

Black activists charge the British National Party with stoking white prejudice, contributing to a surge in racist attacks, including the murder of 12 blacks last year.

But prejudice is not confined to extremists, they say.

"Racism is entrenched in the structures of society, and when those vibrations come from government, the man in the street thinks it's OK to be abusive," said Julie Southey of the Newham Monitoring Project, which fights racism in east London.

According to the Home Office, there were 7,793 racial incidents in Britain in 1992, compared with 4,383 in 1988. Incidents ranged from verbal abuse to murder.

Home Office Minister Peter Lloyd told a parliamentary committee earlier this year that a survey of 10,000 households — 2,000 of them from ethnic minorities — indicated the true figure could be as high as 140,000 incidents annually, although most were not violent.

The government does not keep figures on the rate of welfare recipients. But advocates for minorities dispute the idea they get a disproportionate share.

Carey Oppenheim, spokeswoman for the charity Child Poverty Action Group, says that over the 1989-91 period, about seven per cent of whites and 13 per cent of minorities were out of work. "Members of ethnic minorities are therefore more likely to be disadvantaged," she said.

She said her group also has no firm figures on the rate of welfare recipients, but added that there is some evidence minorities tend to underclaim benefits because of language difficulties or fear of the authorities.

Black, in British parlance, includes Africans and people from the Indian subcontinent. Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis also are known as Asian.

"British means white — experience has shown that a multiracial society does not work here," Richard Edmonds, one of the founders of the British National Party, told the Associated Press in an interview.

Mr. Edmonds and three other party members are facing charges of attacking a black man and his white girlfriend outside a pub in east London.

Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, countered that many multiracial communities in Britain live harmoniously. Where racists are active, the government must act "to prevent black families from living in fear," he said.

Black activists charge the British National Party with stoking white prejudice, contributing to a surge in racist attacks, including the murder of 12 blacks last year.

But prejudice is not confined to extremists, they say.

"There is also an element of contagion from the racial attacks" in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, he added.

Young blacks — who accuse police of failing to protect them and being slow to pursue offenders — are fighting back.

After 17-year-old Quadrius Ali was beaten unconscious by white youths near his east London home Sept. 8, black youths fought on the streets with local skinheads loyal to the British National Party.

The group youth against racism in Europe has vowed to bound the party's Derek Beckton from his Tower Hamlets council seat. "We will not tolerate Nazis," the group said in a statement after his win.

The India Association, a community group, has started training a group of "guardian Asians" in self-defence and the law.

Police say they are doing all they can.

"Each case is followed up meticulously," said a statement from the Metropolitan Police in London, where more than half of race-related attacks took place last year. Arrests are made in one case in five, it said.

Activists want the government to create a specific offense of racial abuse.

With tougher immigration laws in the 1980s and 1990s, the number of asylum applications fell to 24,600 in 1992, compared to nearly 45,000 the previous year. Immigration officials say that is largely due to the perception it is more difficult to get in.

The number of people granted citizenship in 1992 — 42,200 — was the lowest in a decade, down from about 60,000 in 1991. The home office says that is due to cuts in the number of workers processing applications.

Follow the leader

By Richard Harwood

The incisive media critic for the Los Angeles Times, David Shaw, lives on another planet, light years removed from the centre of the universe, which is called "Washington". After prolonged observations, he has published some of his findings.

He has discovered, for example, that the centre of the universe is inhabited by many exotic species, including 17,000 journalists, and that none of these creatures is free of cosmic failabilities. He is especially intrigued with the 1,800 or so who possess credentials to the White House press room.

If all the ticket-holders were to show up on the same day, the press briefing — often described as Feeding the Goat or Slopping the Hogs — would have to be held on the South Lawn.

He has made other discoveries. One of them is that journalists have considerable contempt for one another and for the way the game is played, especially since Bill Clinton came to office. "My colleagues and I," he was told by former New York Times columnist Leslie Gelb, "(are) journalistic Dr. Strangeloves ... ready to nuke Mr. Clinton at the slightest provocation." Our attitudes, broadcaster Jim Lehrer declares, carry "a stench of contempt" for all politicians, reflecting the preposterous view that only journalists "are smart enough" to govern.

A lot of this has come about, Shaw came to understand, because of a "generational rivalry" between old hands in the White House press corps and fuzzy-cheeked neophytes who showed up in the press room fresh off the Clinton campaign. Many of these rookies regarded the president as one of them, a guy of their generation who shared their political beliefs.

The old hands looked down on the newcomers as "starry-eyed" sycophants for the new president" and set out to prove how "tough" they were, how impervious to pressential charm.

The new boys and girls, Mark Miller of Newsweek explained to Shaw, were forced by peer pressures from the Old Guard to be "mean and nasty and beat up on (Clinton) like everyone else."

Well, these self-pitying youngsters should not feel alone. There are also a lot of old fools in Washington, as Shaw's sightings suggest. Twelve days after Mr. Clinton's inauguration, Sam Donaldson opened a Sunday talk show with these words: "This week we can talk about 'Is the (Clinton) presidency over?'" The Washington Post put a headline on a story by Joel Achenbach: "Another failed presidency, already?

another new phase may have begun. Charles Krauthammer on Oct. 22 wrote what is called in the centre of the universe a "seminal" column. Bill Clinton, he noted, started his "perpetual candidacy" at the age of 28, and his life ever since has been an endless series of political campaigns: "Campaigning means talking expansively about our goals, hopes, desires, futures. That's what Clinton does best. In a campaign, however, talk is cheap, and promises have no consequences. They are a means of self-definition."

The talk-talk theme resonated with Carl Cannon of the Baltimore Sun: "Is (Clinton) just another windy Southern politician... who... will say almost anything if he thinks it will please his audience?"

So here we are at the centre of the universe with a view obstructed by fog, static and other atmospheric pollution. One hardly knows what to think from day to day. Our pundits seem to be quarrelsome, inconstant and, like the rest of us, uncertain if the rider of the white horse is a Galahad or a turkey, in disguise — The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Iraqi artist displays works 'transition period'

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdoub is presently exhibiting 40 of his water colour and acrylic works at the Orfali Art Gallery in what happens to be his first personal exhibition in Jordan. However, the 53 years old artist has held 27 personal exhibitions since his graduation from the Academy of Fine Arts, Rome in 1965, in addition to participating in many group exhibitions worldwide.

The collection on display is the outcome of the artist's last five years of works, dwelling on the relationship between the human being and the environment, folklore and the oriental culture on the other. The works constitute a transition period in the artistic life of the painter.

There are four prominent common factors which distinguish Mr. Dabdoub's work. In spite of the fact that this exhibition comprises at least two different styles of painting, each characterised by its own set of colours and means of expression, the viewer will not have a problem realising that the different works are done by the same artist because of these common elements. They are the Arabic letters, the woman figure, the bird, the arch and the artist's famous black dot surrounded by a white ring, giving the impression of a hole. This last symbol is known to be the artist's famous "stamp", found in each and every one of his paintings.

"I started using this dot back in the 1960s. It is one of the oldest symbols which characterises my works and which I maintained throughout my work ever since. It was merely a protruding black dot



at the beginning. This was transferred into a hole with time, by surrounding it with a white ring," Mr. Dabdoub told the Jordan Times. According to the artist, this dot has its different but unique meaning in each painting. It may be an eye in a face, a star in a galaxy, a symbol of life and reproduction in the woman body, etc.

This exhibition illustrates vividly a change in Mr. Dabdoub's artistic tendency towards abstraction during the last five years, where his figures have been reduced into meaningful shapes. His abstract paintings are as impressive. The use of the Arabic letters clearly proves this passage to abstraction while

attempting to preserve the rich heritage of the past.

The artist's inclination towards soft, rainbow colours is quite evident. His usage of "wash" colours, spread by means of a spatula between dividing black ink lines which define the shape of the figure in the painting, gives transparency to his work and creates a "tinted glass" effect. His devotion to the green colour is also very clear. The abstract paintings which are of darker but serene pastel colours, have much depth, perspective and meaning. Sketching in black ink is another thing Mr. Dabdoub enjoys doing.

The exhibition will continue till Nov. 30.

Breaking the cycle of violence

By Stephen Mock and Guido Meyer

The following article is reprinted from Refugees, a Swiss monthly magazine published by the Public Information Service of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Stories of ethnic hatred, xenophobia and racist attacks by neo-Nazi skin heads make headlines almost daily in Germany. But behind the scenes, many Germans are quietly working to combat these evils through a variety of innovative programmes. Among them is a six-year-old "anti-aggression" programme pioneered by Dr. Jens Weidner at the Hameln Detention Centre, in Lower Saxony. The programme is aimed at changing the attitudes of some of the toughest and most violent right-wing extremist youths.

"Right-wing youths can be reached," Dr. Weidner says. "We don't have to give them up for lost. It's worth talking to them."

The Hamburg Land Office for the Protection of the Constitution estimates there are some 50,000 young Germans between the ages of 16 and 20 who are prone to anti-foreigner and similar forms of violence.

"The perpetrators do not spring up from nowhere," admonished German Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker following the May 28 murders of five Turkish women and children in a racist firebombing in the western town of Solingen.

Indeed, there is a familiar pattern in the backgrounds of many young right-wing extremists. Most come from broken homes. More than 50 per cent have had little or no vocational training. About 25 per cent never finished high school. As a consequence, an estimated two-thirds of violent, right-wing extremists are unemployed.

In its milder form, the aggression and frustration experienced by these youths is vented at weekly football matches — so-called soccer hooliganism. But the next stage is lashing out violently at those who are different, who are easy to blame — at foreigners and asylum-seekers, for example.

Hameln Detention Centre's programme is one of several in Germany aimed at trying to break the vicious cycle among violent juveniles. Dr. Weidner, who has been a part of the programme since it was founded in 1986, first assembled the usual team of psychiatrists, sociologists, psychologists and social workers. To this profes-

sional mix he added four repeat violent offenders who cut the academics' theories down to size on the solid bedrock of reality. With the help of this team, anti-aggression therapy was developed in 1987.

Dr. Weidner, an educational sociologist, got the basic idea for anti-aggression training during six months of work with violent street gangs in the United States. His basic premise: Treat hoods in a confrontational way because they are used to confrontation. They are not accustomed to sympathy and middle-class methods of gentle persuasion.

Often, insults — real or imagined — triggered the agitated youths. Dr. Weidner's programme thus places heavy emphasis on focusing as much as possible on the "weak points" and character flaws of the youth in the hot seat in an attempt to examine the real motivation for his violence towards others. Once these weak points are found, the subject undergoes so-called "provocation tests" in which others in the group confront him head on and with increasing intensity over his character weaknesses.

During the initial sessions, the youths often like to boast about their aggressive behaviour. They stress their recklessness, excitability and impulsiveness. They see themselves as "cool" men of action; fatalistic, tough and respected by their peers. They enjoy arguing with others who do not share their views, often trying to frighten and intimidate them. Always, they keep open the option of violence to end any dispute — an option many Hameln youths have exercised quite brutally in the past.

The youths take a perverse pride in being able to solve problems quickly and on their own, using violent methods if necessary. They like to boast of overcoming a superior foe in what they see as a fair fight, like modern-day Robin Hoods.

Dr. Weidner says the aim of his anti-aggression training is to expose the discrepancy between the heroic image these young people have of their violent deeds and the brutal reality of their behaviour. In doing so, Dr. Weidner does not spare the feelings of his subjects, aggressively questioning, challenging and probing their comments in an effort to force them to reflect on their violent ways.

This method of therapy uses a tried and tested approach — the "hot seat." At each session, one of the youths is put in the hot seat and cross-examined by all of the others for an entire evening.

The sole aim of the questioning is to force the subject to confront the real reason for his violent behaviour. After hours of such questioning, the youth is asked to describe in detail how he felt at the exact moment he was committing the

World aid for agriculture declining despite food crises

WASHINGTON — Despite continued food crises in the developing world, agricultural assistance to the world's poorest countries from major governments and international institutions declined drastically over the past decade, according to a report released at the beginning of October by a Washington-based institute that monitors trends affecting the global food supply.

Because agriculture forms the economic base of most developing countries, the cuts in crucial financial assistance to agricultural development could threaten economic growth and political stability in volatile regions of the world. The report from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) also sounded an alarm about new food crises before the end of the decade and threats to natural resources as the world's poorest countries struggle with fewer resources to feed their people.

"Assistance to agricultural development has declined

drastically since the early 1980s," said Joachim von Braun, Director of IFPRI's Food Consumption and Nutrition Division. "Such a decline would be justifiable if their food situation were improving, their rural poverty were diminishing and they were becoming more capable of meeting their needs for public goods essential for agricultural growth. But in many developing countries the food situation is deteriorating, rural poverty is increasing and agricultural growth is stagnating."

IFPRI's survey of agricultural aid from 1980 to 1990 showed that the United States fell from its position as the leading government donor to agriculture — from 30 per cent of bilateral agricultural assistance in 1980 to 19 per cent by the end of the decade. "Africa's poor economic performance throughout the 1980s was partly due to a neglect of agriculture. We may see more of the same in the future if agricultural development continues to be neglected," said IFPRI Director General Per Pinstrup-Andersen. "Agriculture is the key to economic growth — and thus political stability — in many potentially volatile regions of the world. It is difficult, if not impossible, to stimulate sustained economic growth in the least-developed countries without first moving the largest sector — agriculture."

IFPRI's report warned that "substantial risks of large-scale food crises exist in the 1990s."

Meanwhile, Japan increased its agricultural aid from just over \$450 million in 1980 to more than \$1 billion in 1990 — and became the world's top government donor to agriculture. By 1990, one-quarter of total bilateral agricultural assistance came from Japan.

The World Bank, which is the largest single donor to agriculture, provided nearly \$3 billion in 1990. However, as the bank's total lending increased during the 1980s, the share of agricultural aid declined from 30 per cent in 1980 to 19 per cent by the end of the decade.

"Among the political reasons cited for the decade of decline in agricultural assistance was opposition from farm lobbies in donor countries, whose agricultural industries faced increased international competition and lower food prices in world markets."

"When some developing countries attempted to improve their domestic food production situation, they were impeded (by pressure from farm organisations)," the report said. "Any agricultural assistance to perceived 'competitors' was attacked."

Organisational restructuring and reductions in agricultural specialists at donor agencies were seen as other factors contributing to the decline. The report argued for a strategic alliance among United Nations agencies and donor countries to increase attention to agricultural development — International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington.

Lustre returns to Shanghai's pearl

By Philippe Massonnet
Agence France Presse

SHANGHAI — There's a tourist boom on in China's largest city Shanghai, which is rapidly recapturing its image as an international centre for pleasure and commerce.

"It is not completely false to say that Shanghai is not a Chinese city," said Dao Shuming, the young deputy director of tourism in this city of 13 million.

"It is a city still alive in international minds," he said, hastily adding that it is not "like it was before liberation in 1949" — blighted with abject misery.

Officials of course cannot eulogise the Shanghai of the 1930s when it was under foreign occupation — the city of debauchery, luxury and pleasure, a heaven and hell of gambling and opium.

But the images linger and tourist officials are well aware that for foreigners Shanghai will always be a city where the search for amusement is tinged with the adventure and romance of the past.

The official "Welcome to Shanghai" brochure tries to seduce westerners by saying that "modern Shanghai learned directly from the stereotype, which served as an example" despite the "humiliation suffered by the Chinese."

The text is accompanied by flattering photos of the time — the old race course, Nanking road and the Bund.

As places not to miss, Mr. Dao cites the cathedral and the old synagogue in the same breath as the Ming Dynasty

Yuyuan gardens housing the site of the birth of the Chinese Communist Party July 1, 1921. And, almost as in the past, Shanghai offers a night life unique to China, with thousands of restaurants, western fast-food outlets, hundreds of bars and night clubs not to mention 27,000 karaoke bars.

The city's dynamism and pragmatism has made it the fastest growing tourist attraction in the country, with tourist income shooting up 32.5 per cent to \$34 million in the first six months of the year, according to the China National Tourism Administration.

Last year 1.25 million foreigners visited "the pearl of the Orient," an increase of 27.6 per cent, led by Japanese and followed by Americans, Hong Kong residents, Germans and French. The occupancy rate of its 93 approved hotels has stayed at almost 100 per cent since the beginning of the year.

And by 2000, Shanghai will have a huge two billion dollar amusement park and two new golf courses.

Since the speeding up of China's economic reforms 18 months ago, and especially since Deng Xiaoping visited Shanghai in January on his last public appearance, the downtown area has undergone a dramatic facelift.

Most of its gleaming new shops, more and more of them joint ventures, do not close until 10 p.m., and the main streets are now as packed as Hong Kong.

Consumption is soaring and retail sales shot up by more than 30 per cent compared with 1992.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1993

Iraqi dinar plunges to 160 to the dollar on black market

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi dinar plunged to new depths on the Baghdad black market Monday, trading at between 150 to 160 dinars to the dollar, moneychangers here said.

The dinar's slide has accelerated since last month, with the suspension of U.N.-Iraqi negotiations for limited oil sales and tension along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Just before Iraqi farmers crossed into Kuwait last Tuesday to protest the new border, the dinar traded at between 110 dinars and 115 dinars on the black market. The dinar fetches \$3.2 at the official rate.

Last week's resumption of U.N.-Iraqi negotiations on dismantling Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction failed to halt the slide, and moneychangers Monday were not betting on their success.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, arrived in New York Sunday to plead for a lifting of the U.N. oil embargo which was imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait more than three years ago.

In a bid to check the black market, the Iraqi government has decided to open change offices to check.

But Human El Shamma,

economic professor at Baghdad University, said "the main problem is the lack of foreign currency" as a result of the embargo which stopped exports.

Confidence in the dinar eroded after the central government in May withdrew all 25-dinar notes printed abroad — more highly valued than those printed by Baghdad — in turn what turned out to be short up the currency.

The dinar was trading at 50 dinars to the dollar before the government closed the borders in May, allowing only those inside government-controlled areas to exchange the so-called Swiss dinars for new notes.

Merchants in Jordan, Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq and elsewhere found themselves stranded with notes that had once been prized for foreign trade but suddenly became worthless.

"Before this operation, there was an exchange market for the dinar in Amman, Beirut, even in Riyadh. Since the borders closed, people outside lost all confidence because they fear another operation of this kind," he said.

In January 1992, a year after the Gulf war, the rate was about 12 dinars to the dollar on the black market.

Individuals bold about \$2 million to \$3 million, according to Mr. Shamma.

That sum entered the country through Iraqis working abroad and through smuggling operations on the borders with Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, or Jordan, he said.

The government decided to stop buying dollars to check the dinar's fall, but Mr. Shamma said this measure will have little effect as long as industries need dollars to import items required for them to function.

In a bid to stabilise prices, Baghdad also subsidises up to 99 per cent of the cost of basic products which people buy with ration coupons.

But, deprived of oil revenue and required to maintain services like health and education, Baghdad must continue to print money.

Inflation has hit about 3,000 per cent since the embargo was imposed, Mr. Shamma said. The only hope is for a complete or even a partial end to the sanctions, which were extended for another six months Thursday, he added.

In January 1992, a year after the Gulf war, the rate was about 12 dinars to the dollar on the black market.

Tajikistan capital in grip of financial crisis

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — A financial crisis in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan is choking the capital Dushanbe, crippling industry and depriving many citizens of heating as winter looms.

The hardships are the latest in an economic decline spawned by a civil war in this Central Asian state late last year. Public transport in the capital is limited largely to rush-hour bus services and some families live off little but bread.

In the Pamir mountains in the south-east, near the frontier with Afghanistan where border guards are battling insurgents, some villages have electricity only one day in five.

Official newspapers are printed only once a week and telephones in the capital, often out of order, are sometimes left unprepared because of a lack of spare parts.

One of Dushanbe's biggest factories, the Tajik textile factory, is running at 60 per cent of capacity during the cotton harvest — normally a busy time of the year.

Parviz Abdusukurov, chief engineer at Dushanbe's heating plant, said that only three of the 17 boilers that heat the capital are in operation. Several districts are without any heat, he said.

Tajik state television said many citizens were complaining about the lack of heating as temperatures hovered above freezing.

December temperatures reg-

ularly dip to between minus 10 and 15 degrees Centigrade (14 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Supplies of gas to the boilers have diminished," Mr. Abdusukurov said in an interview. No payments had been made to Dushanbe's suppliers of gas and boiler-room spare parts since April this year.

An exodus of Russian plumbers and technicians has compounded problems, he added. Ethnic Russians have been returning to Russia in droves since Tajikistan gained independence from the former Soviet Union in late 1991.

An impoverished and far-flung outpost of the former Soviet superpower, Tajikistan was convulsed last year by a conflict which killed thousands and drove hundreds of thousands from their homes.

Small groups of Islamic rebels remain active within the country and larger groups have formed alliances with Mujahideen fighters in northern Afghanistan.

Since the civil war abated, a financial crisis has gripped the country. Tajik leader Imamali Rakhmonov said in June the budget deficit this year would account for a staggering 54 per cent of gross national product.

Mr. Rakhmonov told a meeting of Dushanbe's city council last week that the city's industrial production would fall by about 50 per cent in the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year, officials said.

Armenians queue for new currency

YEREVAN (R) — Armenians queued for their new currency Monday, swapping tattered old Soviet rouble banknotes for crisp, new dram.

Adults can swap up to 50,000 rubles for dram at a rate of 200 rubles per dram. Cash above this limit — worth less than \$25 at recent exchange rates — will be frozen in special bank accounts.

The Transcaucasian former Soviet republic was one of the last countries to withdraw the old rubles which circulated in Soviet days and bore pictures of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin. Russia pulled the notes from circulation in July.

Armenia is withdrawing large-denomination rouble notes and bringing in new notes worth between 10 and 200 dram. They will be supplemented by small-denomination rouble notes.

Former Soviet republics have been gradually introducing new currencies since early last year, but the flight from the rouble zone has gathered pace since Russia withdrew old rubles.

The move, tantamount to the introduction of a new Russian currency, meant its neighbours had to toe Moscow's economic line if they wanted to receive supplies of the new rubles.

The model links both leverage by deposits (represented by the ratio of equity to deposits), and capital base (represented by the ratio of assets to equity), with deposits' utilisation rate (represented by the ratio of facilities of deposits). It then moves to analysing the sequence of interest items leading to achieve net interest margin by relating these items to deposits.

Lebanon launches crash capital markets programme

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank has launched a crash programme to revive Beirut's pre-war capital markets and win back the city's role as a major Middle East financial centre.

Nasser Saidi, deputy governor of the Bank of Lebanon, said the bank's new management saw reviving the capital markets as crucial for financing Lebanon's reconstruction after the 1975-90 civil war.

"If a good part of the capital is channelled through (Beirut) financial markets, then you're setting up to have a fairly sized capital market," Mr. Saidi said.

He told Reuters in a weekend interview Lebanon hoped to raise \$30 billion in the next 10-15 years through domestic and foreign investment, loans and borrowing programmes from supranational institutions.

"The best way of tapping that and bringing those investment funds into the country is by creating financial markets and financial instruments for people to invest," he added.

The inflow of reconstruction capital would give Beirut an advantage over rival financial centres that emerged in the Middle East during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, which are mainly founded on offshore activities and lack a domestic capital base.

"If a good part of the capital is channelled through (Beirut) financial markets, then you're setting up to have a fairly sized capital market," Mr. Saidi said.

"We've had a number of visits already and the signs are encouraging," Mr. Saidi said.

To develop the money market, the bank launched a Beirut dollar market on Sept. 1, allowing banks and institutions to open dollar and foreign currency accounts at the central bank.

Mr. Saidi said the team believed two-thirds of Lebanon's capital needs had to come from abroad. "You cannot reasonably expect to attract up to \$30 billion without having the appropriate markets and instruments," he added.

public and private sector could issue to tap it.

"The idea is that government debt will act as the backbone (of the debt market). It will be rapidly followed by corporations and institutions issuing debt which can then be sold both locally and abroad," the deputy governor pointed out.

The bank is currently organising Lebanon's first Eurobond issue for \$300 million, Mr. Saidi added.

A major focus of its efforts is on reopening the Beirut stock exchange, destroyed by shelling in 1988. Mr. Saidi expected a semi-paperless exchange to open in 6-8 months.

"We're hoping at least five or six companies including banks could be interested so that you'd start with a small market but a sound and safe one which you would then develop," he said.

Nigerians return to work after fuel price deal

LAGOS (R) — Nigerians returned to work Monday after the new military government struck a deal with trade unions on ending a week-long general strike by agreeing to cut fuel prices.

Banks and shops, closed since the strike began last week, opened early in Nigeria's biggest city Lagos.

There was little sign of police on the streets. "Most of our staff are back," said the manager of one bank in central Lagos, where traffic again jammed the streets.

School children went to school while the federal secretariat in Lagos, where most government employees work, again bustled with activity.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Get tasks done early in the A.M. as the Moon trines the Sun. Avoid using any air of bravado with family or close associates and be sure to be kind to anyone offering you assistance or cooperation.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't expect benefits to come to you from a distance early but get into problems facing you at first hand and tonight stick to plans already made.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't spend more money than you can afford on pleasures and stick to suggestions made by an economical minded associate even though later you want to do your own thing.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your own ideas are good and your judgment is not poor so also rely now upon suggestions given to you by those positions of authority as your way of doing things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An early conflict between a family member and outsider can be resolved by ignoring both and getting into the tasks facing you later avoid the public limelight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't allow pressure at work to keep you from acknowledging an important communication from a close companion, tonight get some relief through a hobby.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to concentrate your attention upon the practical conditions to be solved and avoid going off on pleasure jaunts today or tonight.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Better understanding the views of a partner of ability require that you do not spend as much time following wishes of one in a position of power.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Your own aims are such of a personal nature that you

Burgundy wine auction prices slump for 4th year

BEAUNE, France (R) — Burgundy prices fell on Sunday for a fourth year running at the Hospices de Beaune auction, a key barometer of the French wine industry's health, reflecting a lacklustre world economy and overflowing supplies.

The strike action follows the centre-left government's announcement last week of a new social plan, which is aimed at boosting competitiveness and social security spending.

Included in the measures are tax hikes, cuts in health spending and family allowances as well as a three-year wage freeze.

Jordanian consultancy issues 'financial index of banks'

AMMAN — United International Consulting has recently issued the first version of "Financial Index of Banks in Jordan 1991-1992" which is regarded as the first of its kind in Jordan.

The financial index includes a comparative statistical and financial analysis of all commercial, investment and specialised banks in Jordan for the years 1991, 1992. It also includes the aggregate analysis of commercial banks and investment banks as well as the aggregate analysis of both together.

The significance of financial index lies in revealing new performance standards for banks in Jordan, in addition to industry averages which can be considered a base for measuring banks performance in Jordan.

The analysis of each bank and the aggregate analysis consists of:

— Balance sheet for the years 1991, 1992 and the horizontal and vertical analysis of assets and liabilities.

— Income statement for the years 1991, 1992 and the horizontal and vertical analysis of its items.

— Financial ratios for the years 1991, 1992.

— Interest margin analysis model.

It is a model designed to link finance and investment of the bank with its revenues.

The model links both leverage by deposits (represented by the ratio of equity to deposits), and capital base (represented by the ratio of assets to equity), with deposits' utilisation rate (represented by the ratio of facilities of deposits). It then moves to analysing the sequence of interest items leading to achieve net interest margin by relating these items to deposits.

Records going back to 1958

showed that prices had not previously fallen four years in a row during that period. Data stretching back to the first auction in 1859 were not available.

The auction is the first serious assessment by buyers of the new vintage. On the block were wines bearing some of the most noble names in France: Volnay, Pommard, Corton, Mazis-Chambertin and Meursault.

Barrels each containing 228 litres of wine were sold at an average price of 14,072 francs (\$2,369) apiece, down from 17,878 francs (\$3,010) in 1992 and 44,144 francs (\$7,432) in 1989 before the slump began.

Prices were at levels not seen since 1980. "There's not much enthusiasm out there," shouted the auctioneer at one point.

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Prices were at levels not seen since 198

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1993

Iran's riyal sinks

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian riyal sank to 2,000 to the dollar Monday amid unconfirmed reports that the governor of the central bank would be replaced. Dealers said the dollar rose between 35 and 60 riyals over Sunday's close, reaching 1,900 riyals in the open market in Tehran and 2,000 in the riyal market in Europe. "The dollar opened at 1,950 riyals and rose to 2,000. Demand (for dollars) is strong and we cannot supply all buyers," London-based dealer Ali Pakpour said. The central bank raised the dollar 10 riyals to 1,728/1,730.

Economists blame the riyal's woes on Iran's mounting foreign debt, estimated at up to \$30 billion including \$10 billion in arrears, and low oil prices which have cut into its main source of hard cash revenue.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	CHANGES
ARAB BANK	64,150	179.500	176.500	177.000		
BALADNA NATIONAL BANK	6,000	6.070	6.050	6.050		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,000	1.700	1.680	1.680		
THE HOLDING BANK	9,865	1.990	1.670	1.640		
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	30,093	3.950	3.960	3.900		
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	34,213	3.050	3.020	3.050		
JOHN LEWIS & SONS LTD	7,399	4.780	4.770	4.770		
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,800	4.150	4.150	4.150		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	622	4.150	4.150	4.150		
UNITED INSURANCE	44,250	3.200	3.200	3.200		
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	933	3.240	3.080	3.080		
JORDAN CIVIL LIBERATION	1,183	3.400	3.370	3.370		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	473	3.770	3.770	3.770		
LEBANESE DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	66,214	2.220	2.210	2.210		
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	12,046	4.750	4.750	4.700		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPA COMPLEX	11,250	1.170	1.170	1.100		
NATIONAL POSTNETIC BANK	7,450	1.430	1.430	1.430		
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	912	1.430	1.430	1.430		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER	2,299	1.880	1.880	1.880		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	1,640	1.430	1.430	1.430		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CEDROS BROTHERS	24,013	2.140	2.130	2.120		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	9,221	2.660	2.660	2.650		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	1,229	7.480	7.420	7.400		
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	41,436	5.280	5.240	5.250		
AND INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING	3,770	2.130	2.100	2.080		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER	916	0.390	0.390	0.270		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	1,368	1.520	1.520	1.520		
ARAB INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2,292	2.240	2.240	2.240		
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	5,940	10.000	9.900	9.900		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	1,671	1.950	1.920	1.920		
JOHNSON MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,847	2.570	2.500	2.500		
JOHNSON MEDICAL CORPORATION / ALTAJ	3,436	2.370	2.300	2.270		
JOHNSON TRADING CENTER / ALTAJ	2,050	0.390	0.390	0.390		
JORDAN PLASTIC CONCRETE INDUSTRY	700	0.390	0.390	0.390		
NATIONAL CARB & WIRE MANUFACTURING	9,877	8.100	9.050	6.080		
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	2,492	2.240	2.240	2.240		
ARAB CENTER FOR PETRO. & CHEMICALS	1,814	2.370	2.200	1.320		
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	230	2.260	2.260	2.260		
JORDAN INVESTMENT	11,482	5.110	5.080	5.070		

Jordan's imports rise 13.5% in first half of this year

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's imports during the first half of this year increased by 13.5 per cent as imports climbed from JD 966.2 million during the first six months of 1992 to JD 1,096 million during the same period of 1993.

According to the Monthly Statistical Bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) imports from Arab Common Market (ACM) countries (mainly Egypt, Iraq and Syria) rose from JD 166.7 million to JD 176.8 million in the first half of this year.

Imports from Iraq alone were JD 149.4 million compared to JD 142.5 million during the six months of 1992. Egypt was in second place with JD 11.5 million ('93) and JD 11.8 million ('92).

The value of imports from other Arab countries was also higher, totalling JD 50.9 million compared to JD 41.4 million to the six-month period in 1992.

Saudi Arabia ranked first

among the non-ACM countries, having registered a JD 19.7 million of exports to Jordan in the first six months of 1993. Lebanon second with a JD 11.5 million.

In the same period of last year imports from Saudi Arabia totalled JD 16.4 million while those from Lebanon amounted to JD 11.9 million.

Jordanian imports from other European countries totalled JD 37.3 million ('93) compared to the JD 34.1 amount posted in the first six months of last year.

Sweden, Austria and Switzerland were the main exporters from the group of other European countries.

Imports from Sweden in the first half of this year amounted to JD 12.3 million while imports from Austria and Switzerland were JD 10.3 million and JD 9.2 million respectively.

Sales of U.S. products to the Kingdom were high at JD 131.6 million ('93) and JD 108.4 million ('92).

Purchases from Japan added to JD 65.2 million during the January-June period of this year. During the same period

of 1992 the amount was JD 57.2 million.

Jordan exported products worth JD 22.4 million to India but imported goods with JD 20 million from that country in the first six months of 1993.

During the same period of 1992, Jordanian imports from India were worth only JD 17.7 million.

Imports under the category "other countries" totalled JD

200.7 million ('93) compared to the total of JD 183.8 million posted from January-June ('92).

The CBI monthly Statistical Bulletin listed the value of imports from some countries grouped under the category of other countries.

Imports from Turkey amounted to JD 26.4 million

('93) compared to JD 36.2 million ('92).

Similarly, the figures for Taiwan were JD 20.4 million, down from JD 24 million; for South Korea JD 29.7 million, up from JD 18.6 million; for Indonesia JD 10.3 million, up from JD 6.8 million; and for Pakistan JD 2.7 million, down from JD 3.2 million.

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Financial Markets
Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close Date 22/11/1993
Sterling Pound	1.4735
Deutsche Mark	1.7143
Swiss Franc	1.5049
French Franc	5.9415
Japanese Yen	108.50
European Currency Unit	1.1790

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 22/11/1993
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.56	5.31
Deutsche Mark	6.18	6.00
Swiss Franc	1.50	4.51
French Franc	6.62	6.43
Japanese Yen	2.43	2.25
European Currency Unit	6.75	6.31

Other Currencies		Date: 22/11/1993
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8360	1.8630
Lebanese Lira	0.040100	0.041500
Saudi Riyal	0.1866	0.1882
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1919
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7500
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1910
Greek Drachma	0.2825	0.3335
Cypriot Pound	1.5320	1.5725

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3258/68	Canadian dollar
	1.7110/20	Deutschmarks
	1.9200/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5024/34	Swiss francs
	36.45/49	Belgian francs
	5.9415/65	French francs
	1689.81/3	Italian lire
	108.21/31	Japanese yen
	8.3290/49	Swedish crowns
	7.4365/65	Norwegian crowns
	6.7905/05	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4713/23	
One ounce of gold	\$378.50/379.00	

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Kashmir

EC agrees embargo lifting deal; calls meeting on Bosnia aid

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — EC foreign ministers agreed Monday to offer Serbia a "gradual suspension" of sanctions in exchange for concessions, and an accord on the Serbian Krajina enclave.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said.

Mr. Juppe, speaking after a meeting of the 12 ministers here, also called on the three warring parties in former Yugoslavia to attend a meeting in Geneva next week on the thorny issue of guaranteeing aid supplies to Bosnia.

Mr. Juppe said political and military leaders of the three factions would be invited to Geneva next Monday, for a conference to be attended by ministers, U.N. generals Jean Cot and Francis Briquemont and U.S. and Russian observers.

The ministers had called Monday's meeting to discuss their first joint action on Bosnia, including a deal to lift sanctions against Serbia, as set out in a Franco-German initiative two weeks ago.

In the past few days, Paris and Bonn have appeared divided on the suspension deal.

Bonn would only consider a gradual suspension, while Paris wanted to propose the lifting of sanctions after a period of suspension.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd earlier dismissed the idea of lifting sanctions. "I don't think there is any question of removing sanctions against Serbia until all the U.N. resolutions have been carried through," he said.

"Prospects of peace don't look very good," he declared, adding: "We need to persuade the Serbs to yield more territory."

On the subject of aid convoys, it was not immediately clear what next Monday's meeting in Geneva would involve. Mr. Juppe said the ministers would ask the warring factions to give formal guarantees on allowing aid through.

Last Thursday the three warring factions met in Geneva to sign an agreement guaranteeing aid corridors into Bosnia, but there was no immediate end to fighting along some of the aid routes.

Aid has been suspended into the region for the last four weeks following the killing of an aid convoy driver.

EC officials have said that there was little support for proposals, implicit in the French-German plan, to send more troops to Bosnia to guard the supply routes.

U.N. aid convoys to central Bosnia could resume as early as Tuesday, a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official said Monday in Sarajevo amid reports that people were starving to death in the southern Bosnian city of Mostar.

"We expect with the (U.N.) secretary general's (Boutros Ghali) resumption of aid convoys that we will begin to send our first convoys into central Bosnia tomorrow (Tuesday), we hope, (although) it may not be until Wednesday," Peter Kessler, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said here Monday.

Meanwhile three Argentinian U.N. peacekeepers were injured, one seriously, when a mine exploded near Pakrac, on the border of a Serb-controlled area of eastern Croatia under U.N. supervision, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

The badly injured soldier was receiving treatment at the European Community (UNPROFOR) hospital in Zagreb, the spokesman said.

Argentina has more than 900 men based in the sector of Grubisno Polje, 80 kilometres east of Zagreb.



Overall view of the site where a Soviet-built YAK-42 plane crashed in Macedonia (AFP photo)

Pilot lost control in Macedonia crash

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — Opposition groups alarmed by the third air disaster in 16 months Monday demanded the resignation of the government minister in charge of civil aviation.

A Soviet-made YAK-42 trijet, chartered by the Macedonian carrier Avioimpex, crashed late Saturday near the airport at Ohrid, some 110 kilometres (70 miles) southwest of Skopje. Only one of the 116 people on board survived.

The plane, leased from the Russian carrier Aeroflot, was on a charter flight from Geneva to the Macedonian capital, but was diverted because of a blizzard at Skopje Airport.

"We suppose the pilot lost control and deviated from standard landing procedure," said Goran Pavlovska, head of the government commission investigating the crash.

Visibility was good at nine miles (15 kilometers), and conditions for landing were favourable, Mr. Pavlovska said. He said it appeared the plane began its descent too low.

All but eight of the passengers appeared to have been ethnic Albanians from the

Yugoslav province of Kosovo or from Macedonia working in Switzerland, according to a preliminary report published by the Belgrade daily Borba.

The four-man Russian flight crew and four Macedonian cabin attendants also died.

Six children and two babies were listed among the fatalities. Pierre Ollier, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees based in Skopje, also died.

The sole survivor, a Serb identified only as Slobodan, underwent surgery to stop bleeding in his left lung and was listed in critical condition Monday.

Last March, a Fokker 100 belonging to another Macedonian carrier, Palair, crashed near Skopje killing 81 people and injuring 16. A Russian Antonov 12 cargo plane struck a mountain top in central Macedonia in July 1992, killing all seven people aboard.

A two-year flight boom in Macedonia, resulting from the international sanctions imposed on neighbouring Yugoslavia, has overtaxed the little nation's civil aviation infrastructure.

Eighteen charter airlines

have been registered to handle the passenger influx from the north, although only six are currently operating.

There is still no proper civil aviation authority, and operator licenses and other pertinent matters are handled by the Ministry for Urban Planning, Civil Engineering, Communications and Ecology.

Safety standards are described as poor. Air traffic control which used to be handled from Belgrade before Macedonia declared its independence in 1991, is rudimentary, and flight crews are reportedly overworked.

"All these carriers are profiting handsomely from the chaos in our civil aviation," said Todor Petrov, leader of a group of seven independent deputies in Macedonia's 120-seat parliament. In a statement read on national TV, he demanded the resignation of Antoni Pesev, the minister in charge.

His call was echoed by the small Macedonian People's Party and the Workers Party.

At an emergency session late Sunday, the government announced that Tuesday would be a day of mourning for the victims of the crash.

Texas town wants pregnant officer to patrol streets

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — The city has refused a pregnant police officer's request for a desk job and she gives birth, saying that if she can't do patrol work, she won't get paid. "I don't know what they expect me to do. Go on welfare?" Officer Bonnie Hyde said. "I think they ought to have a little compassion instead of putting me out on the street when I'm two months pregnant." As of last week, Officer Hyde, 31, was not patrolling and not earning her \$2,351 monthly salary. City Manager James Baker said Humble doesn't have a policy for placing its police officers on light duty. "Her job is a patrol officer. If she can't perform her duties, she can't work," he said. "We gave her the opportunity to wear a shoulder harness or any other acceptable method of carrying a weapon," he said.

Officer Hyde is qualified as a field training officer and is an FBI-trained fingerprint expert.

Richard Gere attends China's 'Oscars'

BEIJING (AP) — American actor Richard Gere, a strong critic of China's human rights record in Tibet, was in Guangzhou Monday for the Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival, an event hailed here as "China's Oscars." Gere, who pointedly called on China's supreme leader Deng Xiaoping to end human rights abuses in Tibet during a speech at the American Oscar ceremony this year, arrived at the weekend, a festival organiser said by telephone from the southern Chinese city. He is to remain until Thursday or Friday for the Chinese premiere of his latest film *Sommersby* at the five-day festival, the organiser said. Chinese film star Gong Li and director Zhang Yimou are also expected to make appearances at the festival which opened Sunday, the China Daily said. They have been nominated as best actor and best director respectively for their film *The Story Of Qiuju*, the report said, adding that the "mainland's equivalent to the Academy Awards" would be presented Tuesday. Films from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Russia, Spain, Germany, France, Japan and the United States are also to be shown at the festival, which was first held last year in the southwestern city of Guilin, it said.

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A two-year flight boom in Macedonia, resulting from the international sanctions imposed on neighbouring Yugoslavia, has overtaxed the little nation's civil aviation infrastructure.

At an emergency session late Sunday, the government announced that Tuesday would be a day of mourning for the victims of the crash.

Meanwhile, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said Sunday South Korean leaders are concerned about military activities of North Korea's "unpredictable" and "desperate" regime.

In an interview with the Seoul daily, Mr. Kim denied foreign press reports that Washington and Seoul were to announce a halt to the annual Team Spirit military exercise as part of a "package deal" which would include resumed outside inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

In the interview which took place last week, Mr. Kim said he expected the two Koreas would enter into a commonwealth as a first step towards unification during his presidential term, which ends in 1998.

The New York Times reported Monday that Washington was to offer North Korea a package deal involving low-level concessions and some commitments on future deals in exchange for an immediate resumption of limited international inspections of its nuclear sites.

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Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and candidate for the Naples office of mayor, waves to supporters after casting her vote for the first direct mayoral elections in Italy (AFP photo)

ters as she is surrounded by photographers after casting her vote for the first direct mayoral elections in Italy (AFP photo)

Seoul hardens stance on eve of summit

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea appeared to harden its stance Monday on the eve of crucial summit talks between Presidents Kim Young-Sam and Bill Clinton expected to focus on Pyongyang's refusal to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities, press reports here said.

In an interview with the Seoul daily, Mr. Kim denied foreign press reports that Washington and Seoul were to announce a halt to the annual Team Spirit military exercise as part of a "package deal" which would include resumed outside inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

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we Sampras

Sampras finishes on a losing note, but stays No. 1

RANKFURT (Agencies) — Michael Stich played his best tennis of the year and Pete Sampras played probably his best. The outcome was predictable.

Stich became the new No. 2 in the world by beating Sampras 7-6, 2-6, 7-6, 6-2 Sunday in the ATP Tour World Championship.

The loss in the last match of the tour left a little blip on Sampras' record, but did not affect his No. 1 ranking.

Sampras was heading home — Tampa, Fla., Monday. He is a date with Vitas Gerulaitis Tuesday on the golf course.

Stich's season is not over. He will lead Germany in the Davis Cup final on Dec. 3-5 in Dusseldorf.

"Five weeks in a row in a rope and maybe there at the end I just got a little mentally tired," Sampras said after the set defeat.

But Sampras wasn't looking for excuses.

"I had all my chances today, when we get to crunch time it seems to get through it. I do what I do to win. He played a little bit more than I did. But I will get it," Sampras said.

"It's disappointing," Sampras said. "But I obviously had a great year and I can hold my head up high."

Stich blasted 27 aces in his victory, while Sampras only 11. He led the tour this season with a total of 1,011.

"It's a great finish to a great year," Stich said after preventing Sampras from winning his final in a row.

Sampras had an even greater year, but he faded in the last stretch.

He dropped his serve in the winning game and struggled in the final.

Stich won both key tiebreaks against Sampras, bringing his year-end record this season to 19.

Everybody tends to play a loose the first couple of sets in a breaker. I try to play every point very seriously to be 100 percent there on first point. That pays off," he said.

He fired 12 aces in the final.

In the fourth set he just ed huge, I had no chance," Sampras said. "The air was out of the balloon."

He collected \$1.24 million

Barcelona shock throws Spanish race wide open

PAIRS (AFP) — A stunning defeat for Barcelona by bottom-of-the-table Lerida threw the Spanish title race wide open at the weekend and left six sides tied at the top.

Newly-promoted Lerida, who had not won at the Nou Camp for 43 years, snatched an 86th minute winner through defender Quesada Jaime after Brazilian striker had missed a penalty.

That left the Catalan club tied on 16 points with Sevilla, Valencia, Deportivo La Coruna, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao. Sevilla could have gone top but were beaten 1-0 by Valencia while Deportivo was crushed Real Oviedo 4-0.

Barcelona's coach Johan Cruyff, who watched his team do everything but score, said: "I suppose that some of my players were still thinking of playing in the World Cup."

Valencia's hero was Bulgarian Luboslav Penev, still jubilant after the pass that led to Bulgaria's last-minute World Cup winner against France last week. He netted the only goal of the game in the 25th minute.

Real Madrid, reduced to ten men in the closing minutes when Luis Milla was sent off, were lucky to hang on for their 2-1 win over Celta Vigo that

put them at the top for the first time this season.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano (13) and Ramon (80) got Real's goals. Losada scored on the stroke of half-time for Celata, who had a late equaliser controversially disallowed.

Jose Angel Ciganda scored Athletic Bilbao's winner at Sporting Gijon.

A 25-yard shot from Sweden's Thomas Brodin (63) and a freekick from midfielder Gianfranco Zola (85) gave Parma victory over Atalanta and kept them on top of the Italian League — but only on goal difference from champions AC Milan. The two sides clash next weekend.

Milan, who left out Jean-Pierre Papin because of exhaustion after France's Bulgarian trauma, needed two equally superb goals to secure a 2-1 victory over Napoli.

Fabio Pecchia had put the visitors in first-half injury time but Christian Panucci (61) equalised with a beautifully shot with his left foot and midfielder defender Demetrio Albertini converted a 25-yard freekick one minute from time.

Sampdoria also had to come from behind after Foggia had taken a 12th minute lead

through Dutch winger Brian Roy.

Roy's compatriot Ruud Gullit continued his rich run of form with a 24th minute equaliser after running on to a David Platt cross.

Roberto Mancini missed a penalty for Sampdoria before half-winger Attilio Lombardo got the winner 14 minutes from time to leave the Portuguese forward stretched off in the closing minutes. He is expected to have knee surgery this week and be out for two months.

Marcel Desailly, the third former Marseille star auctioned off, made an impressive debut for Milan in midfield suggesting Fabio Capello sees him as a replacement for Frank Rijkaard rather than just a stopper.

The Sardinians had gone ahead midway through the second half through Belgian midfielder Luis Barroso de Oliveira but the loss of Francesco Moreiro, sent off ten minutes later, allowed Juventus back into the game.

Alen Boksic and Paolo Futre, two of the players off-loaded by cash-strapped Olympique Marseille scored their first goals in Italy for Lazio and Reggiana.

Croat striker Boksic headed

Lazio ahead in the Olympic Stadium but Torino came back through on Andrea Silenzi penalty (66) and former Lazio midfielder Angelo Gregucci (84).

Futre put Reggiana on the road to a 2-0 win over Cremonese — their first of the season. But the dream debut turned into a nightmare when the Portugal forward was stretched off in the closing minutes. He is expected to have knee surgery this week and be out for two months.

Previous leaders Bordeaux were held to a 1-1 draw by newly-promoted Martigues while Monaco needed a penalty save from Jean-Luc Ettori to earn a point against Le Havre.

In Holland, an own-goal by veteran international John De Wolf gifted third-placed Vitesse Arnhem a draw against Dutch champions Feyenoord Sunday, enabling Ajax to close the gap to one point at the top of the table.

Feyenoord, who have yet to be beaten this season, had looked to be heading for their 11th victory after striker John Van Loen's 34th minute penalty.

Ajax meanwhile continued their freescorer form with four second-half goals against FC Groningen.

Clarence Seedorf broke the deadlock after 55 minutes and the Amsterdam giants killed the game in a five-minute burst that saw strikes from international wingers Marc Overmars, Nigerian George Finidi and

Sweden's Stefan Petterson.

In Germany, the misery con-

tinned for Bayern Munich,

when the Bavarian giants were

held to a 1-1 draw with base-

ment club Schalke 04, who

have lost 10 of

their last 12 matches.

Brazilian midfielder Valdo,

who made Ginola's goal, then

scored the winner to put PSG

back on top of the league.

Leaders Eintracht Frankfurt

must be desperate for the

Christmas break after a second

consecutive 3-0 loss saw them

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FC Porto won the big match

in Portugal when a sixth mi-

King

ute strike from Domingos

gave them victory over Bobby

Robson's Sporting Lisbon.

That allowed Porto to move re-

level with Benfica, who were

stunned 5-2 by Setubal.

Nightmare year ends with Graf victory

NEW YORK (R) — A sensational year for Steffi Graf, but a nightmare season for women's tennis, finally came to an end with the German star's victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario at the Virginia Slims championships Sunday.

With her vaunted forehand blazing, Graf pounded out a 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 victory over the exhausted Spaniard to claim her 10th title of the year and raise her 1993 earnings to a single-season record of \$2,621,537.

Graf reached the final of 14 of 15 tournaments she played and finished the year with an impressive 76-6 record, losing just one match since May 2. "I'm incredibly happy. I had so much success, it's been a great year," Graf said after picking up her \$250,000 winner's check for her third year-end title at Madison Square Garden, but first since 1989.

"To end the year winning this tournament, it couldn't be any better," added the 24-year-old world number one.

Among Graf's remarkable list of accomplishments for 1993 was her third French Open title, fifth Wimbledon crown and third U.S. Open victory.

The 1993 record book will show that Graf dominated the women's game like no one has since — well since Monique Seles just last year.

And there is the rub. The year will always be remembered as the one in which a deranged fan jumped from the stands during a tournament in Hamburg and plunged a knife into the back of the best tennis player in the world.

While Graf's year is impressive by any standard, it will always be tainted by the fact that all her major titles came after Seles was violently forced out of the picture.

The one meeting this year between Graf and Seles, who did not play since the April 30 stabbing, came in the final of the Australian Open, won by Seles.

The fiercely competitive



Steffi Graf

Yugoslavia would have been defending champion at the French Open, the U.S. Open and at the season-ending championships, which she won in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Ironically, the one person as happy as Graf Sunday may be Guenter Parche, the German who attacked Seles because he wanted her to Graf to be number one again.

So when Sunday's final concluded on a high note for Graf, there was an almost palpable sigh of relief that the women's tennis year that everyone would like to forget was finally over.

"I'm happy to have a break now, very happy, and I'm looking for some time away from tennis," Graf said.

"What I will concentrate on the next few weeks is to get healthy, to get injury-free," added Graf, who played the past two weeks with lower back pain and for much of the year with a foot injury that required surgery in October.

Even without attack on Seles, 1993 was not exactly a banner year for women's tennis.

In addition to Graf, several top players suffered injuries and illnesses, including Mary Jose Fernandez, who had

abdominal surgery in September, and Jennifer Capriati, whose elbow injury has kept her sidelined since a miserable showing at the U.S. Open.

The popular Gabriela Sabatini has had her confidence shattered by going 26 tournaments without a title. She went out in the first round of the season finale to complete her year without at least one title since 1985.

And rising star Mary Pierce suffered the indignity of having her abusive father banned from all tournaments after he was thrown out of the French Open for his horrid behaviour. She has since sought legal action to keep her father away and is anxious as anyone to put 1993 behind her.

"This tournament has helped me a lot," said Pierce, who enjoyed breakthrough wins over Saharina and Martina Navratilova at the season finale.

"Hopefully I have something to look forward to next year."

To add insult to injury, Kraft General Foods decided not to renew their option as the primary sponsor of the women's tennis tour, leaving the WTA to search for new sponsorship next year.

Lee Clark looked destined to score his first of the season before a last-ditch block by

Cole shows England credentials

NEWCASTLE, England (AP) — Andy Cole illustrated why he could be England's brightest hope up front with a hat-trick for Newcastle against former European champions Liverpool Sunday.

The St. James' Park crowd were treated to an exhibition of finishing by the 21-year-old striker, who was man-of-the-match in the northern club's 3-0 premiership win.

With displays like these, Cole is almost certain to be the first choice up front for the successor to current England manager Graham Taylor.

In freezing temperatures, Cole turned up the heat with pace and shooting accuracy to finish off Liverpool, who dominated English football during the 80's.

Cole's treble took his tally for the season to 21 and he showed that he has come of age.

It took him just four minutes to carve open Liverpool as he pounced to stab home Robert Lee's cross from the left and beat goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar from close range.

King Cole made it 2-0 after 16 minutes as Newcastle again took advantage down Liverpool's left flank.

Scott Sellars, in only his fourth game of the season, ran on to Peter Beardsley's defence-splitting pass to centre for Cole to glance home a low shot into the bottom far corner.

And then on the half-hour Sellars put another one on the plate for the rampant Cole, who duly struck to claim his third hat-trick of the season and few at St. James' Park, Liverpool excluded, were complaining that he looked a yard offside.

The scoreboard above a glistening gallows gate end flashed the message: "It's the Cole goal show," and the striker and Newcastle could have added more.

Sellars was denied by Grobbelaar in the 38th minute while Cole saw another close-range effort beaten out by the busy keeper.

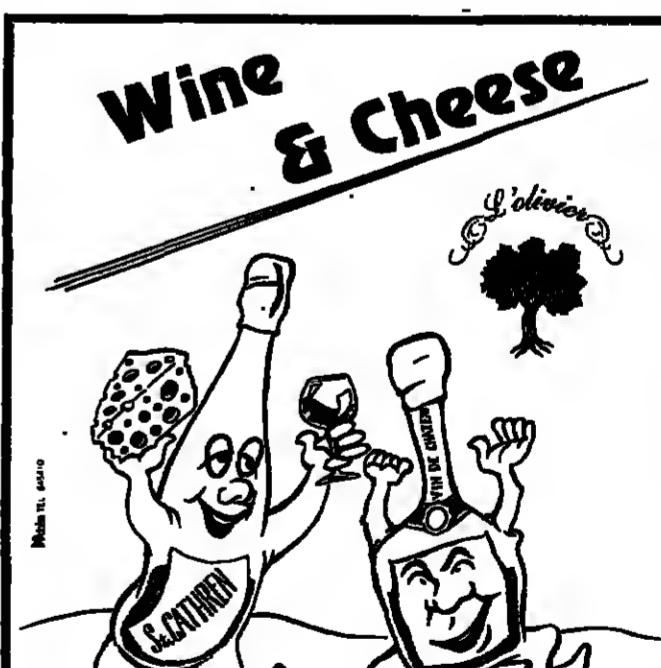
Lee Clark looked destined to score his first of the season before a last-ditch block by

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab boycott of Israel to continue—league

CAIRO (R) — The Arab boycott of Israel will continue until the Jewish state withdraws from all occupied Arab lands and a Palestinian state is established, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Monday. "We want to end the boycott but the reasons that led to its imposition — the continuation of the occupation and the need for Palestinians to gain their rights — are still valid," Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters. He was speaking after an Arab League Council session requested by Libya to urge Arab states to maintain the boycott. After the signing of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal in September, Israel and the United States called on Arab countries to lift the boycott. The U.S. House of Representatives Sunday condemned the boycott as an impediment to Middle East peace, and urged the Arab League to work end it. (See page 2). Dr. Abdul Meguid denied reports that some Arab states had requested the lifting of the boycott.

PLO turns down Swedish proposal

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has turned down an offer by Sweden to build accommodation in Jericho for refugees and administrative personnel, office buildings and an airport, the Swedish development aid ministry said Monday. Swedish Aid Minister Alf Svensson had been holding discussions with the PLO on the project which was to have cost 40 million kronor (\$5 million), financed by money already set aside for development aid. The question of Swedish support for the Israeli-PLO peace process was expected to be discussed when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visits Sweden on Nov. 26. Following the peace accord signed in September between Israel and the PLO, Sweden increased its aid to the Palestinians by 50 million kronor (\$6.25 million) to 225 million kronor (\$28 million).

Iran resumes train service to Khorramshahr

NICOSIA (R) — Iran resumed passenger train services to Khorramshahr port near the Gulf Monday, 13 years after they stopped at the outset of the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran Radio said. Khorramshahr, then Iran's biggest commercial port on the Shatt Al Arab border river, was occupied by Iraqi troops for 19 months at the start of the eight-year conflict. The city is still largely in ruins and only a fraction of its pre-war population has returned since fighting stopped in 1988 under a U.N.-brokered ceasefire. The radio said one train a day would make the nearly 19-hour journey.

Bomb hoax on plane to Israel

NICOSIA (R) — A bomb threat which forced a Greek Airbus bound for Israel to make an emergency landing in Cyprus turned out to be a hoax, airport officials said Monday. The Olympic Airways flight from Athens to Tel Aviv put down at Paphos in southwest Cyprus on Sunday and the 210 passengers spent the night in a hotel while experts combed the aircraft. "They are leaving now, all passengers are okay, it was only a bomb hoax," a Paphos airport officer told Reuters. The control tower at Paphos had earlier described the plane variously as a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet and a Boeing 737.

Lawyer for bomb victims advising Libya

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer representing families of five victims of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing has been paid by the Libyan government for advice on turning over two suspects in the case, according to a published report. Lawyer F. Lee Bailey travelled to Libya in August to advise officials on how judicial systems work in various countries in the event that Libya decided to turn the suspects in, the National Law Journal reported in its Monday edition. Mr. Bailey told the Journal he saw no conflict in representing the victims' families while advising the Libyans on "what the means of surrender should be. The families would be in favour of that. The purpose of my going there was to facilitate their return to somewhere." Mr. Bailey said he did not inform his clients of the visit to Libya because it had not been made public. He also stressed that he was not representing the suspects, but merely advising the government on options for their surrender. Elizabeth Phillips, former president of victims of Pan Am 103, said she did not think the families "would want to have him represent Libya." Mr. Bailey said he told the Libyans the United States will not "settle for anything less than a Scottish trial," and that even an acquittal there would not stop further prosecutions, he told the Journal. He said the Libyans found his advice "not helpful, not cheerful."

Gunmen wound 4 in south Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Unidentified gunmen Monday shot at a police checkpoint in southern Egypt, wounding three policemen and a civilian. The attack comes one day after assailants shot and killed three policemen and a civilian and wounded three other bystanders in a public square in the southern town of Qena. Police did not identify the shooters in either attack, but their style conforms to that of Muslim extremists who frequently launch attacks on police, especially in the south.

Jibril vows to continue struggle against Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril has pledged that his guerrillas will continue to fight against Israel in alliance with the Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist Hezbollah. Mr. Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, said Sunday the Sept. 13 peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians would only bring "humiliation and defeat." Addressing a graduation ceremony for his fighters, he bitterly attacked Yasser Arafat as a "docile tool in the hands of U.S.-Zionist policy." Mr. Jibril also attacked Mr. Arafat for his condemnation of a recent attack that killed an Israeli settler. Mr. Jibril, whose movement is based in Damascus, said "the PFLP-GC will continue its fight and struggle against the Zionist enemy, thus allying itself with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with other national and Islamic forces."

Clerides calls for U.S. pressure on Turkey

NICOSIA (AP) — President Glafcos Clerides urged the United States on Monday to pressure Turkey to withdraw from its war-divided island. "The United States, more than any other country in the world, has sufficient influence in Ankara to be able to convince the Turkish government to change its intransigent stand on Cyprus," Mr. Clerides told new U.S. Ambassador Richard A. Boucher. The U.S. envoy, who was presenting his credentials, said that the status quo in Cyprus was not a solution. "My country will continue to give its steadfast support to the efforts of the United Nations secretary-general to assist the people of Cyprus reach a mutually acceptable solution," said Mr. Boucher, familiar to Americans as a former State Department spokesman. Responding to Mr. Boucher's address, Mr. Clerides said a just settlement was prevented by "the intransigence of the Turkish side, the contempt it shows toward the will of the international community and the flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions."

Kuwait, Russia to sign pact by Dec. 2

KUWAIT (R) — Russia and Kuwait will sign a defence agreement between Nov. 29 and Dec. 2 providing for possible arms sales and joint military exercises, the Russian ambassador said Monday. The accord is aimed at improving Kuwait's defences and will allow Russia to become more deeply engaged in securing peace and stability in the Gulf, Ambassador Peter Stegny said. "By beginning it we are engaging ourselves more deeply in securing peace and stability in the Gulf," he told Reuters. "Its (the accord's) main provisions are aimed at development of close cooperation to assure a higher level of Kuwaiti defence capability — exchange of delegations of defence ministries and general staffs of the two countries, joint manoeuvres and training, purchase of armaments," Mr. Stegny said in an interview.

PLO generals visit Gaza to plan police deployment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) generals crossed into the occupied Gaza Strip from Egypt on Monday on an unprecedented visit to plan the deployment of a Palestine police force, Palestinian sources said.

Generals Abdul Razek Al Majayyeh and Abdullah Farah were to examine the possibility of housing Palestinian police units in military camps which Israeli troops will evacuate under the Israeli-PLO peace deal, Israel radio said.

The Palestinian sources said the generals would be accompanied by Israeli officials during their day-long tour.

Three PLO colonels and 22 new police recruits, who just completed a two-month training course in Egypt, are to enter Gaza Tuesday to check out possible local training sites, the sources said.

An Israeli military pullout from Gaza and the occupied West Bank town of Jericho is due to start on Dec. 13 under the terms of the Israel-PLO accord on limited Palestinian self-rule.

Palestinian police will be in charge of security in the two areas but the Israeli army will remain in and around Jewish settlements.

Israel media on Monday published the text of a letter, accompanying call-up notices sent to a reserve transport company, in which the unit's

commander explained to his men the purpose of their 30-day stint.

"As you know, Israel is involved in moves which I hope will lead to peace," he wrote.

"Part of the process is the (military) evacuation of Gaza and Jericho, according to the decision of the government."

The best units of the transport centre have been chosen for this operation. Our unit is the first to be picked for this job and I hope you also want to take part in this process."

Meanwhile, a first batch of the 600 Palestinian police being trained in Egypt graduated Monday and are going home to take up their duties.

The 22 graduates dressed in Green Fatigues — with Palestinian flag patches on their shoulders — received certificates from Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Aly.

"This is a great day for the Palestinian people," said Nabil Shaheen, 29, who raised the Palestinian flag for the ceremony at the Egyptian police's Institute of Higher Training.

The graduates, mainly from the Gaza Strip, will return home Tuesday to await Israel's withdrawal.

Some 15,000 to 20,000 Palestinian policemen are due to replace the Israeli troops, in addition to the 600 being trained in Egypt, more than 2,500 have graduated from Jordan's Royal Police Academy.

About half the Palestinian police will be fighters from the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion Army, the PLO military force in different Arab countries. Its members are supposed to gather soon in Egypt and Jordan to prepare for deployment.

Said Kamal, the Palestinian representative in Egypt, said he was overwhelmed by Monday's ceremony.

"I couldn't control my feelings when I saw my flag with the Egyptian flag ... This is the first step of building the entity of the Palestinian people on Palestinian territory," he said.

Mr. Kamal refused to answer questions on whether the police would face problems with Israeli settlers. Some settlers have said they will not obey Palestinian officers.

Another fear is that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will use the new police to crack down on Palestinians opposed to peace with Israel. But several graduates interviews said they did not expect opposition to lead to confrontations.

"God willing, we will all come to an agreement," said Jihad Al Nasla from Gaza.

Mr. Nasla, like others in the group, was a fighter with Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction of the PLO.

One of the trainees said he was jailed before he joined the programme, but others said they had never carried a gun before and were university graduates.

Most said what they were looking forward most to Israel's withdrawal from their land.

Clinton nominates Egan as ambassador to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — President Bill Clinton has named a new ambassador to Jordan, the U.S. Information Service (USIS) announced Monday.

Mr. Clinton nominated Wesley L. Egan, Jr., on Nov. 16 as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to Jordan, a USIS press release said.

Ambassador-designate Egan, 47, will assume his duties in Jordan following his confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

He succeeds Roger Harrison, who left Jordan in July and afterwards retired from the U.S. foreign service.

Afghan 'veterans' not involved in recent attacks — leader

CAIRO (AFP) — A founder of an Egyptian Islamic militant group said former veterans of the war in Afghanistan were not involved in recent attacks by militants in Egypt, in an interview published here Monday.

Ayman Al Zawahri, a founder of the Talaq Al Fatah (Vanguards of Conquest) movement, told the opposition weekly Al Arabi: "Most young people involved in recent (militant) operations have never been to Afghanistan."

Mr. Zawahri, himself sought by the Egyptian authorities, said the assassination attempt against Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie in Cairo on Aug. 18 was a "suicide operation," which he had planned.

Talaq Al Fatah said it carried out the attack, in which General Alfie was seriously wounded and three civilians and the two assailants were killed.

Mr. Zawahri, who went to fight Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s, now lives in Geneva.

The Egyptian authorities have accused Islamic militants living in Afghanistan and Pakistan of masterminding attacks in Egypt, and Cairo has been seeking their extradition for months.

Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has pledged to remove all threats to Egypt's security from Afghan territory, where hundreds of the Egyp-

tian militants are based.

A statement issued at the end of Mr. Rabbani's visit to Egypt said the Afghan president "condemned terrorism in all its forms, and stressed he would not allow Afghan territory to be used to undermine Egypt's security and stability."

It did not say whether Mr. Rabbani agreed to an Egyptian request for a bilateral extradition treaty to be signed, so that Islamic militants already convicted by Egyptian courts could be sent back from Afghanistan.

Right-wing parties have rejected the constitutional accord signalling the end of 300 years of white rule, which was ratified by democracy negotiators Thursday in Johannesburg.

As Mr. De Klerk faced the caucus of his ruling National Party before the session opened, about 40 white extremists marched on parliament to demand a whites-only election and a separate homeland for Afrikaners.

In a memorandum, the protesters said: "We victims of apartheid, we whites, demand recognition and a return to sanity."

CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg last week said Mr. De Klerk was "morally and constitutionally obliged" to call for a whites-only election, a point he is likely to repeat when he responds to Mr. De Klerk in parliament.

Emerging from the caucus, Mr. De Klerk denied reports of a split among pro-democracy and conservative members within his party.

"It was nothing but positive," he said, referring to the mood among NP members as they faced the end of white minority rule.

Mr. De Klerk said he was certain the only dissent among the parliamentarians gathered here would be from CP members.

"I want to know exactly where they (the CP) stand on federalism," he said, adding that he expected tough opposition from the party.

Shortly before it opened, government chief negotiator Roelf Meyer described the session as "an historical occasion."

"It will do away with apartheid," he said. "It will get rid of what was wrong in the past, at the same time it will be substantive and provide the new rules by which South Africa will live."

Israeli military officials denied there had been an attack against their forces in Rafah on Sunday.

Suicide bomber

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that the Dec. 13 target date for starting the pullout was "not a holy date."

"Nothing will start to be implemented before reaching agreement on the major issues, first and foremost the security issues," Mr. Rabin said.

On Sunday another Palestinian group said its fighters operating in the Gaza Strip attacked Israeli soldiers in the town of Rafah, killing or wounding a number of them.

Israel denied any knowledge of such an attack.

PLO generals visit Gaza to plan police deployment

commander explained to his men the purpose of their 30-day stint.

"As you know, Israel is involved in moves which I hope will lead to peace," he wrote.

"Part of the process is the (military) evacuation of Gaza and Jericho, according to the decision of the government."

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Most said what they were looking forward most to Israel's withdrawal from their land.

per cent said they would choose an Islamic State.

Support of the Fatah move-

ment has dropped from 45.6

per cent in September to 41.3

per cent now. The survey said

the fall could stem from "unfulfilled political-economic ex-

pectations after the signing of

the declaration of principles."

The survey of 1,855 Palesti-

nians from the West Bank and

Gaza Strip was conducted by

the Centre for Palestine Re-

search and Studies.